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VIRGIL VAN DIJK

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FROM THE EDITOR

It's a measure of the progress made by women's football in the past year that a summer programme featuring a host of tournaments – Copa America, AFCON, the Gold Cup, world under-20s and European under-21s – has been dominated by the Women's World Cup.

Events in France over the past few weeks have attracted more attention than games in Brazil, Egypt and elsewhere. It helps, of course, that the Women's World Cup was on free-to-air TV in the UK and elsewhere. But the summer of 2019 may well come to be remembered as the tipping point for the status of women's football.

> The summer of 2019 may well come to be remembered as the tipping point for the status of women's football

As with so much in football, money is the common currency for change. As clubs and federations wake up to the commercial potential of women's football, so more progress can be expected.

Further proof of progress will be seen next season when the debates generated in France – over the likes of VAR, offside and handball rules – are carried over into the men's game.

The Final of the Africa Cup of Nations had not been played when we went to press so we will review that tournament in its entirety next month, when we will also preview the new club season in Europe. See you then.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1 USA retain Women's World Cup p42
2 Brazil claim Copa America on home soil p52
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Outspoken... Lionel Messi

ARGENTINA

Messi facing ban for Copa comments

Lionel Messi faces a length ban for comments made after Argentina's victory over Chile in the Copa America third-place play-off.

After the Barcelona star was harshly sent off following a clash with Chile's Gary Medel, the 32-year-old refused to collect his medal and told reporters: "There is no doubt, the whole thing is set up for Brazil.

I did not want to be part of this corruption. We shouldn't have to be part of this disrespect we suffered during the Copa America.

"We could have gone further, but we weren't allowed into the Final.

"Corruption, referees and all the rest stopped people from enjoying the football."

Messi will be banned for his red card and could miss the start of the World Cup qualifying campaign next year. He is likely to face further sanctions from CONMEBOL if his comments are deemed to have "insulted" or "damaged the reputation" of the organisation and its personnel.

"Brazil do not have five stars [for World Cup wins] at random. None of them have been stolen. It was played on the pitch"

Thiago Silva responds to claims from Lionel Messi that referees have favoured Brazil

UNITED STATES

Warner ordered to pay millions in damages

Former FIFA vice-president Jack Warner has been ordered to pay $79million in damages by a federal judge in the latest round of the FIFAgate corruption saga

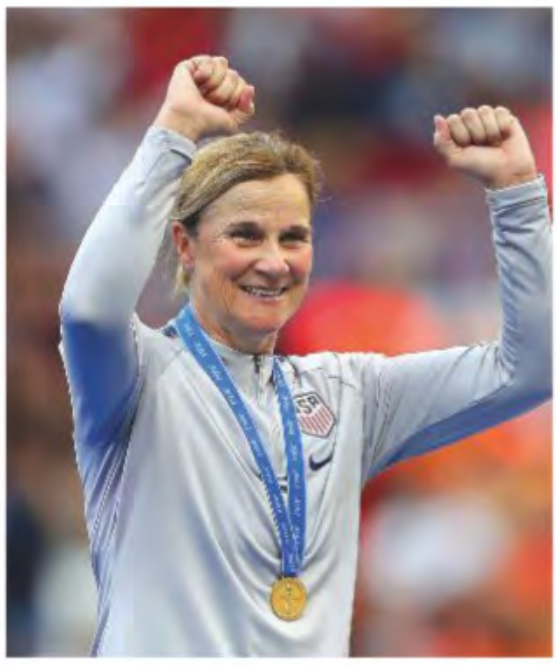
The judge, William Kuntz, issued the ruling after Warner did not contest a 2017 civil suit claiming he embezzled millions of dollars from CONCACAF.

Warner was accused of taking kickbacks from media rights deals for CONCACAF events and taking bribes regarding FIFA votes, including the decision to award South Africa the rights to hosting the 2010 World Cup.

Lawyers said CONCACAF intends to pursue Warner's assets to recover damages from 76-year-old Warner, who is living in Trinidad & Tobago while the United States pursues extradition.

Warner, who has denied any wrongdoing, was issued with a life ban from football in 2015 by FIFA's ethics committee.

HEROES & VILLAINS



Back-to-back success...Jill Ellis

JILL ELLIS

The Portsmouth-born coach became the first person to guide a team to back-to-back successes in the Women's World Cup

RAUL JIMENEZ

The Wolves striker was named player of the tournament as Mexico beat USA to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

DANI ALVES

At the age of 36 and looking for a new club after leaving PSG, the Brazilian full-back was voted best player at the Copa America.

Charitable...QPR

QPR

The Championship side donated their stadium naming rights to charity in a move that will see Loftus Road called the Kiyan Prince Foundation Stadium after a body that works to tackle knife crime in London.

Disgraceful...Cameroon's Ejangue (in green)

CAMEROON WOMEN'S TEAM

Having twice looked set to walk off the pitch in protest at decisions not going their way in a 2-0 loss to England at the World Cup, they were also guilty of numerous poor challenges and then disgraced themselves further when Augustine Ejangue spat at Toni Duggan.

REECE MILLER

The 18-year-old Watford striker was suspended by the club after he was involved in a mass brawl during a racehorse meeting at Royal Ascot.

MICHEL PLATINI

The former UEFA president was detained and questioned by French police investigating corruption allegations surrounding the decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

NEYMAR

The Brazilian star was a no-show at Paris Saint-Germain's pre-season training, heightening speculation that he was attempting to force a move away from the French club.

Absent...Neymar

FIFA

Samoura off to Africa to supervise CAF

FIFA president Gianni Infantino is sending the world governing body's secretary-general, Fatma Samoura, to work at the CAF headquarters in Cairo, as a "FIFA General Delegate for Africa", in a bid to improve governance on the continent after a series of problems.

Africa has been a major headache for FIFA in recent months, with accusations of corruption aimed at CAF president Ahmad providing the worst possible run-up to the Africa Cup of Nations. There are also the continuing inquiries into the role of newly created companies such as French-based Tactical Steel in enabling a new sportswear contract for the governing body and the AFCON.

When FAs run into trouble, FIFA usually appoints a "normalisation committee" to sort out the problems. But Since the confederations are not members of FIFA this was impossible. Hence the artifice of the CAF executive committee requesting FIFA assistance to sort itself out.

Samoura... out in Africa

The despatch of Samoura – who will take charge on August 1 – into CAF HQ is intriguing on several fronts. First, it was Ahmad who originally introduced Infantino to the Senegalese former United Nations official. Secondly, it removed Samoura from Zurich where the length of her continuing tenure has long been a matter of speculation.

Samoura has none of the power wielded by her predecessor, Jerome Valcke. As a black, Muslim woman she ticked all the diversity boxes, but having cleaned out most of the old Blatter-era middle management her job is done.

The departure of Senegalese-born Samoura for Africa clears the way for Alasdair Bell to step up from deputy. He was legal director at UEFA when Infantino was general-secretary and the pathway would appear to be open to that partnership being resumed.

That is assuming, of course, that Samoura never returns.

Keir Radnedge

REPORTS WE COULDN'T MAKE UP

Gimme shelter...play in the Gold Cup is stopped by lightning

1 LIGHTNING STOPS PLAY

Christian Pulisic scored twice to send the United States into the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final with a 3-1 victory over Jamaica, but their semi-final clash was held up for 90 minutes because of lightning.

Play was halted after 15 minutes of the match in Nashville, with the teams leaving the pitch and fans told to take shelter.

"It was a long night, but the mentality of the team was excellent," said US midfielder Michael Bradley.

Busy...Nicole McClure (left)

2 KEEPER'S DOUBLE TIME

Jamaican goalkeeper Nicole McClure returned to league action for her club in Belfast - the day after making her Women's World Cup debut.

McClure played for Sion Swifts in a 4-0 win over Crusaders Strikers in the Irish Women's Premiership, following her appearance for Jamaica in their 4-1 defeat by Australia in France the previous evening.

The New York-born goalkeeper had a difficult evening in Grenoble, conceding four goals to Australia striker Sam Kerr and being at fault for the fourth.

However, after a train journey and two flights, she was in goal to keep a clean sheet for Swifts as they claimed an away victory which kept them within two points of league leaders Glentoran.

War...calcio fiorentino

3 FLAT EARTHERS

Spanish fourth-tier team Mostoles Balompie have changed their name to Flat Earth FC in a bid to promote the flat earth movement ideals favoured by club owner Javi Poves, who claims to believe that the planet is flat, rather than a globe.

Javi Poves was reported to have said: "We are here to unite the voices of millions of flat earth movement followers and all who are looking for answers."

"Football is the most popular sport and has the most impact worldwide, so creating a club dedicated to the flat earth movement is the best way to have a constant presence in the media.

"This will also be the first football club associated with a cause and an idea, without having a specific location.

"Flat Earth FC is the first football club whose followers are united by the most important thing, which is an idea."

4 ANCIENT CALCIO

Originally a sport for rich aristocrats, and even popes, the rules of calcio fiorentino – an early cross between rugby and football – were first written in 1580 by Giovanni de Bardi, a count from Florence, and, today, three matches are played each year in the city's Piazza Santa Croce.

Four teams – Bianchi, Rossi, Verdi and Blu – represent the neighbourhoods of Florence in a contest once described by Henry III of France as being "too small to be a real war and too cruel to be a game".

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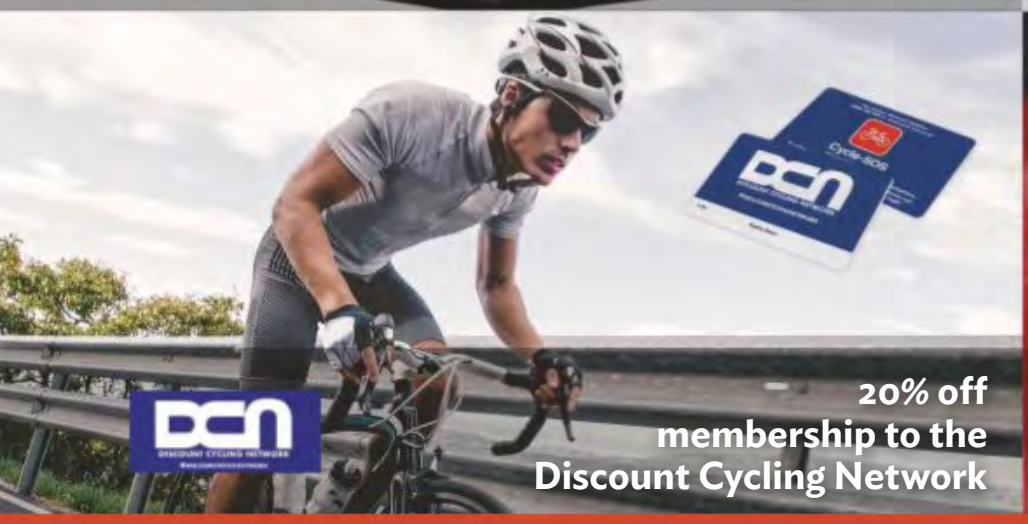

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"Cry in the beginning so you can smile in the end"

Marta's advice for her younger Brazil colleagues as they exited the World Cup

EVERTON

(Gremio & Brazil)

The winger emerged as Brazil's bright new star at the Copa America, scoring his first goals for the senior side as they triumphed on home soil.

Nicknamed Cebolinha ("little onion") because his haircut reminded team-mates of a kids' TV cartoon character, Everton put the smile back on Brazilian faces with his performances this summer.

He scored in the opening game, against Bolivia, and in a 5-0 win over Peru, who recovered from that setback to make an unlikely appearance in the Final – in which he scored Brazil's opener and was then fouled for the penalty converted by Gabriel Jesus as Brazil won 3-1.

Having won the Libertadaores Cup with Gremio in 2017, a high-profile move to a European club now looks to be on the cards. Having been scouted by Gremio as a teenager, he made the long journey from his home in northeastern Brazil to the south as a teenager, so a move to Europe will not be as daunting as some might suggest.

ISMAEL BENNACER
(Algeria)
The 21-year-old defensive midfielder and ex-Arsenal youth teamer impressed at the Africa Cup of Nations.

BENOIT BADIASHILE
(Monaco)
Young centre-back, aged 21, thought to be a target for Tottenham Hotspur.

GEORGE PUSCAS
(Romania)
The striker had a great Euro Under-21 tournament but a move to Palermo collapsed because of their financial woes.

WUILKER FARINEZ
(Venezuela)
The keeper impressed at the Copa America and Barcelona are interested.

JONATHAN DAVID
(Gent & Canada)
The teenager won the Golden Boot at the CONCACAF Gold Cup after scoring six goals.

MORGAN ROGERS
(West Brom)
The 16-year-old forward was reported to be close to signing for Manchester City in a £4million deal.

Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

Nowhere to hide for fairy-tale Sarri at Juventus

The story of Maurizio Sarri has been one of football's modern fairy tales: the banker in Tuscany who was an amateur player and then a local-leagues coach in his spare time who rose through 30 years of hard labour to the very peak of the professional game.

Who could not thrill to this tale? Certainly, it captured the imagination of Pep Guardiola, who became a fervent admirer of the team Sarri created for three years at Napoli.

This isn't how sport is supposed to work. You must be an insider to reach the top. You can't switch from the world's oldest bank, the Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, and climb the greasy pole of football by starting at a club in the eighth tier of the Italian pyramid. You can't be a 60-a-day smoker in the world of high-tech fitness and super athleticism.

You can't. But Sarri did. And even one rumbustious season at Chelsea has not dimmed his appeal. No, the 60-year-old has returned home to the prime job in Italy, and one of the crown jewels of Europe, as coach of Juventus.

For those who love his story, Sarri was the obvious choice; for an army of sceptics this is the moment when the truth is discovered.

The question is stark: is he one of the great managers or is he a myth?

Sarri may be spiky in nature, but he is worldly wise. He knows this is the job that will define his career.

"Juventus are the best Italian club at the moment," he said at his unveiling in Turin. "It is the crowning achievement of a long career that for 80 per cent of it was extremely tough. I arrive with scepticism, just as I did with all my other clubs. I understand that, but I know only one way to change that – and it is to win and convince while entertaining and getting results."

> "Juventus are the best Italian club at the moment. It is the crowning achievement of a long career that for 80 per cent of it was extremely tough"
>
> Sarri, on taking charge of Juve

Sarri was in charge at 17 different provincial clubs through a quarter of a century at every level of the Italian game before Napoli took a chance on a coach who was by then 56-years old.

His team in Naples was superb, adored by the fans and admired by rivals. But they were always the bridesmaids when it came to silverware.

He fought a furious battle against the demons that come with managing Chelsea to claim his first-ever trophy, the Europa League, to reach the Final of another competition, the League Cup, and to finish a respectable third in the Premier League.

For most clubs this would be a campaign to remember with joy as well as pride. Sarri, instead, would have been hounded out of London if he hadn't been a wily old fox who was far ahead of the hunt.

Now, though, there is nowhere to hide for Sarri – not behind the relative lack of resources at Napoli, nor the institutional mayhem of Stamford Bridge, nor the obvious supremacy of rivals, as was the case with Manchester City and Liverpool in the Premier League last season.

Juve are stable and have won eight successive Serie A titles. Juve are rich and powerful. Juve have magnificent players and are buying more this summer. Juve have a crowd eager to believe in his brand of attractive football.

Juve also have rivals who are in transition with new coaches: Paulo Fonseca at Roma, former boss Antonio Conte at Internazionale, and Marco Giampaolo, who was a surprise choice at Milan.

And Juve, more than any of this, have the inspiration and personality of Cristiano Ronaldo – and you'd surely want him in your fairy-tale football team.

So, now we will find out. Does learning your trade the tough and obscure way – through 25 years at Stia, Faellese, Cavriglia, Antella, Valdema, Tegoleto, Sansovino, Sangiovannese, Pescara, Arezzo, Avellino, Verona, Perugia, Grosseto, Alessandria, Sorrento and Empoli equip you for the ultimate job?

Or will Maurzio Sarri be cruelly exposed as just another football man who jumped a bridge too far? WS

New home...Maurizio Sarri passes a photograph of another former Chelsea boss, Gianluca Vialli, at Juventus' Allianz Stadium

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

UEFA club battle on the horizon

A showdown is looming over the future of European club competitions. The major teams and leagues have been rattling their sabres in preparation with headline-grabbing jabs in the face of UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin.

The Slovene is growing irritable at the demands for one change or another, all aimed at expansion to generate more money. Clubs want more money to feed the appetite for trophies while UEFA wants more cash for its development programmes.

Expansion would also either favour the grandees of the club game (think more money for Barcelona, Real Madrid, etc) or the leagues (more money but nothing to upset their domestic schedules) or the middle and lower ranking clubs (more money to reward their foundation-laying).

But the snag with this is the money market is slowing down. If even the English Premier League is resigned to a virtual standstill in revenue growth then no other competition – not even the Champions League – can expect to continue onwards and upwards.

Budget...Ajax

> "It's not about Juventus or Bayern or Barcelona or Real Madrid – it's about the other clubs having stability and focus"
>
> Ajax CEO Edwin Van der Sar

Premier League clubs this past season shared around £690million but hopes of a further leap upwards have been stymied by the reluctance of internet broadcasters to enter a streaming auction.

UEFA was so pleased with the early response to the Nations League that it ramped up the financial distribution. But broadcasters have their own budgets and just because UEFA creates another competition does not automatically mean more money in the TV pot. Europe's smaller clubs may be disappointed by the projected return of the "third competition".

The European Club Association (ECA) summoned its 200-plus members to St Julians in Malta for a two-day brainstorming session on its demands for the next era of the Champions League, the Europa League and Cup number three. They came up with plenty of noise but no united front.

The original ECA proposal was for 24 secure members out of 32 in a group stage comprising four groups of eight instead of eight groups of four. UEFA is considering a counter offer with perhaps the semi and maybe quarter-finalists from one season all guaranteed a return for the next.

About the only factor on which the clubs could agree was revealed by ECA president Andrea Agnelli at the end of a closing press conference when he said: "We had a fantastic dinner." Otherwise it was back to square one.

Agnelli, trapped between a rock and hard place in balancing his ECA role against his club interest as president of Juventus, said only: "This is the start of the process. It will take months before we can come to an agreed solution with all stakeholders – UEFA, European Leagues, the ECA and FIFA for the international calendar part."

ECA has a perception issue. It does not represent all of Europe's clubs as is often supposed – only the small minority who compete regularly in the international competitions.

So much the better if the domestic

Food for thought... Aleksander Ceferin

leagues share some of the TV money among all their clubs but crumbs from the rich man's table hardly represent a long-term model of stability. As Agnelli conceded, "the current system is broken".

Never mind a wealth gap between the TV-rich Big Five – England, Germany, Spain, Italy and France – the gap between Europe's clubs is ever wider and deeper, and some of the great traditionalists are struggling to balance their books.

Take Ajax, former world and European champions, record Dutch champions and Champions League semi-finalists last season. Edwin Van der Sar, now the Ajax CEO, says: "Not everyone is going to get what they want. It's about stability. It's not about Juventus or Bayern or Barcelona or Real Madrid – it's about the other clubs having stability and focus.

"For example, I have to draw up a budget without counting on Champions League football because we can still lose in the qualifiers this coming season and have no European money."

Hence, of course, why the final whistle had barely sounded against Tottenham when transfer speculation cascaded over the likes of Frenkie De Jong, Donny Van de Beek, David Neres, Hakim Ziyech and Matthijs De Ligt.

Van der Sar's cautionary tale will have been music to the ears of Ceferin whose negotiating hand is strengthened by division among the clubs. Forget talk of a super league. Everyone has much more to gain from deal than no-deal, not least the clubs wedded to their major domestic fixtures.

Ceferin is, by virtue of his UEFA role, a vice-president of the world federation and FIFA president Gianni Infantino has his own agenda in which Europe's clubs have an important role to play. The scrapping of the unloved Confederations Cup has created a calendar gap which Infantino is filling with an expanded 24-team Club World Cup offering 12 slots to Europe.

The soon-to-be-redundant current Club World Cup will be staged this year and next in Qatar, allowing the 2022 World Cup to showcase preparations. The first expanded competition will be in the summer of 2021 and China is favourite to be the inaugural host.

Ceferin is wary about FIFA's incursion into the club world. He is resigned to one tournament every four years but that may be only the first step on a slippery slope. Hence UEFA's retaliatory idea of reviving the original Intercontinental Cup matching the winners of the Champions League and Libertadores Cup.

The World Cup remains by far the greatest show, but the club game continues to push national-team football into the international shadows. Ceferin needs eyes in the back of his head.

French fancy

There was Michel Platini, planning a return somewhere in football once his FIFA ban expired in October when, all of a sudden, he was summoned for questioning by French police over his role in the 2022 World Cup award to Qatar.

Platini switched his favour from the United States to the Gulf state after an infamous lunch at the Elysee Palace with then-French President Nicolas Sarkozy

Hapless...Michel Platini's ban expires in October

and the now-Emir of Qatar. This was a mere two weeks before the vote by the FIFA ExCo in December 2010.

Not that Platini is the main target. This remains Sarkozy and his links with Qatar and its subsequent major investments in French society, including the beIN TV sports channel and the QSI takeover of Paris Saint-Germain.

Still, the continued shadow hanging over Platini should be enough to remind the game to keep him at arm's length.

WINNERS

USA
Beat Holland to become Women's world champions for a fourth time.

BRAZIL
The hosts won the Copa America for the first time since 2007.

BALLYMENA UNITED
Their Europa League win over NSI Runavik meant that they progressed through a round of a European club competition for the first time at the eighth attempt.

LOSERS

JAVIER AGUIRRE
Sacked as Egypt coach after the hosts were knocked out of the AFCON in the Round of 16 by South Africa.

EMMANUEL AMUNEKE
Fired as Tanzania coach despite taking the team to their first Africa Cup of Nations finals in 39 years.

ARGENTINA
Disappointment yet again at the Copa America, losing in the semi-finals to Brazil, made it 26 years since they last won a major trophy.

"Ronaldo is Ronaldo but I am Joao Felix"

Atletico Madrid's new Portuguese signing plays down comparisons with his more famous compatriot

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Chinese job ...Yaya Toure

EUROPE

Luis Enrique, who was absent for Spain's last three games due to personal reasons, was replaced as coach by **ROBERT MORENO**, who had been his assistant at Roma, Celta Vigo and Barcelona, as well as with the national side.

FRANK LAMPARD left Derby County to take charge of Chelsea, replacing **MAURIZIO SARRI**, who joined Juventus. **PHILLIP COCU** took over at Championship side Derby.

Former Wales forward **CRAIG BELLAMY**, who stepped down from his job in charge of Cardiff City's under-18s in January after allegations of bullying, joined Anderlecht as the Belgian club's under-21 coach.

Home...Frank Lampard returned to Chelsea

Former Arsenal midfielder **EDU** was appointed the club's first technical director after leaving his role as general coordinator of Brazil's national side.

MARCO GIAMPAOLO, who quit Sampdoria at the end of the season, was appointed coach of Milan. **AURELIO ANDREAZZOLI** left relegated Empoli, where he was replaced by **CRISTIAN BUCCHI**, and was appointed coach of Genoa. **ALESSANDRO NESTA** took over from Marco Baroni at Frosinone, who were also relegated from Serie A.

Portuguese coach **LUIS CASTRO** left Vitoria Guimaraes and took charge of Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk, where he will be assisted by ex-Croatia full-back **DARIJO SRNA** who announced his retirement as a player.

In charge of England's Under-17 World Cup-winning side in 2017, Welshman **STEVE COOPER** was appointed manager of Championship side Swansea City.

JIM GOODWIN replaced Oran Kearney as boss of Scottish Premiership side St Mirren, while **ANGELO ALESSIO** was named boss of Kilmarnock.

Gone...Razvan Lucescu left Greek champs PAOK

RAUL was named coach of Real Madrid 's reserve team, Castilla. **XABI ALONSO** was appointed coach of Real Sociedad B.

ABEL FERREIRA left Braga and was appointed coach of Greek champions PAOK after **RAZVAN LUCESCU** left for Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia.

Tottenham Hotspur named **RYAN MASON** as their under-19s manager.

Talent...Joao Felix

Atletico seal Joao Felix deal

JOAO FELIX became the fifth-most expensive player in history, joining Atletico Madrid from Benfica for €126m. The teenager was given Atletico's number seven shirt, worn last season by Antoine Griezmann. For all the summer transfers in Europe's top five leagues, go to **worldsoccer.com**

"I'm no longer a youngster of 16 who has no idea what injuries can do to you"

Arjen Robben announces his retirement at the age of 35

Appointments, sackings and loans

ASIA

RAFAEL BENITEZ was appointed coach of Chinese side Dalian Yifang. He replaced **CHOI KANG-HEE**, who joined Shanghai Shenhua (*see page 25*).

Beijing Renhe re-appointed **LUIS GARCIA** as coach, six months after his dismissal by Villarreal.

Ivorian midfielder **YAYA TOURE** joined second-tier Chinese side Qingdao Huanghai.

Sacked in November by Premier League strugglers Fulham, **SLAVISA JOKANOVIC** took charge of Qatari side Al Gharafa.

Former Japan boss **AKIRA NISHINO** took charge of Thailand, while **JALAL DAMJA** was appointed coach of Libya for the second time. **CYPRIAN BESONG ASHU**, who is a former senior coach at the Arsenal Academy in London, was named coach of South Sudan

Frenchman **ERICK MOMBAERTS** was appointed coach of Melbourne City in Australia's A-League, while German **MARCO KURTZ** took over at cross-town rivals Melbourne Victory.

Argentinian **GABRIEL CALDERON** was appointed coach of Persepolis, replacing Croatian **BRANKO IVANKOVIC**, who led the club to the 2018 AFC Champions League Final and the Iranian league and cup double before joining Al Ahli Saudi.

Serbian coach **RADOJKO AVRAMOVIC**, who led Singapore to three AFF Cups, returned to the country to take charge of club side Home United.

FAOUZI BENZARTI left Wydad of Morocco to succeed Roger Lemerre as coach of Tunisia's Etoile du Sahel.

French coach **SEBASTIEN DESABRE** quit Uganda after the Africa Cup of Nations and took charge of Egyptian side Pyramids FC.

Former Bosnia coach **BLAZ SLISKOVIC** left club side Zrinjski Mostar to take charge of Kitchee in Hong Kong.

Exit...Luigi Di Biagio

EUROPE

DAVID SILVA has said this will be his last season at Manchester City. The 33-year-old Spanish midfielder has won four Premier League titles, the FA Cup twice and the League Cup four times since joining the club in 2010.

Serbia sacked coach **MLADEN KRSTAJIC** after a 5-0 loss to Ukraine in the European Championship qualifiers.

LUIGI DI BIAGIO stepped down after six years in charge of Italy's under-21 side.

A World Cup winner with Spain in 2010, and European champion in 2008 and 2012, **FERNANDO TORRES** retired at the age of 35.

EMMANUEL ADEBAYOR, whose contract with Basaksehir Istanbul was due to run until 2020, left the Turkish club by mutual consent.

CONCACAF

Diego Maradona resigned as coach of Mexican second-division club **DORADOS** for "health reasons".

AFRICA

Former Nigeria winger **EMMANUEL AMUNEKE** stepped down as Tanzania coach after the Africa Cup of Nations.

OBITUARIES

Koldo AGUIRRE
(1939-2019)
Twice a Copa del Rey winner with Athletic Bilbao, the midfielder was capped seven times by Spain before going on to coach the club, leading them to the finals of the Copa del Rey and the UEFA Cup, where they lost to Juventus, in 1977. He later had spells in charge of Valencia and Mallorca, among others.

Winner...Koldo Aguirre

Dickson MAKWAZA
(1942-2019)
Captained Zambia in 1974 as they reached the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time, reaching the Final, where they lost 2-0 in a replay against Zaire (now DR Congo) in Egypt. Was head coach of Mufulira Wanderers in 1977, when they became the first Zambian club to make it to the semi-finals of the African Cup of Champions Clubs.

Robben calls time on playing career

ARJEN ROBBEN, who won the Champions League with Bayern Munich in 2013 and was a World Cup finalist with Holland in 2010, announced his retirement at the age of 35. Robben's contract at Bayern expired this summer and he had been expected to move to another club.

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Restless Pogba highlights United's problem with money

Businessmen... Edward Woodward (left) and Avram Glazer (centre)

Manchester United's highly talented and hugely expensive Paul Pogba is demanding release from a club which paid £89million to make him their record signing.

With his agent loudly proclaiming his client's desire to leave, there were doubts whether Pogba would be on the plane taking the team to start its pre-season tour in Australia, but in the event he did turn up and flew with the squad.

Pogba wants to leave Old Trafford to join Real Madrid. Having spent such a vast sum on the player, you can imagine how reluctant United and their manager, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, are to lose him. And as their present valuation has swelled to a huge £160m, neither Madrid nor Juventus are remotely close to a deal on those terms.

As a club, Manchester United have been overtaken by their rivals City and losing a player of this magnitude would put them even further behind. Pogba's gloomy expression when he arrived with the squad at Manchester Airport spoke louder than words.

United, as a shrewd and penetrating column by the critic Jim White expounds, face the continuing regime of the Glazers, who know plenty about money but much less about football,.

White writes damningly of the chief executive, Ed Woodward, as "presiding over an archaic backroom structure that understands one thing and one thing only: making money". Thus, as he points out, the squad is sent off on a demanding tour rather than implementing pre-season early training.

This is in sharp contrast with the resplendent days of Alex Ferguson, who didn't take his men on pre-season tour until they had had enough time to replenish themselves in calibrated training at home.

White cogently describes Solskjaer as being "the latest victim of his employers' relentless dash for cash"; the ultimate irony being that the mistaken policy itself is a sure way to lose cash rather than to make it.

No wonder it was all too much even for as potent a figure as Jose Mourinho.

> United have been overtaken by City. Losing a player of Pogba's magnitude would put them even further behind

Restless...Paul Pogba

Benitez falls for the China Syndrome

In football's version of what might be called "The China Syndrome", prominent players and coaches are being drawn to operate in China for large amounts of money, even though the standard there is of negligible quality.

As experienced and successful a manager as Rafa Benitez has now left Newcastle United for Chinese club Dalian Yifang in a £12million-a-year deal which comes clear of tax, thus quadrupling his Newcastle earnings.

Truth to tell, Benitez has gone into a footballing backwater. "I wanted to stay," he insists of his time at Newcastle. "One hundred per cent. I wanted to develop a project, but you have to have the tools.

"If the people at the top of the club had the same ideas I would still be there."

A detached observer might feel money simply talked after Newcastle had refused his demand for £9.4million a year.

Once manager of Liverpool and Chelsea, Benitez may talk about Newcastle failing to embrace his "vision" or to redevelop the training ground, but it seems plain enough that money has talked. And loudly.

Youth must get its chance at Chelsea under Lampard

Changes...Frank Lampard

It seems, that under their former prolific star Frank Lampard, youth will at last get its fling at Chelsea. For years the club's youth-team players looked among the best in the country, winning many a title but finding a way to the first team barred.

Released at a price by Derby County, Lampard is a relatively inexperienced manager, but his plan to give youth its chance comes at an appropriate time, with the club living under a transfer ban.

Maurizio Sarri, whom Lampard has succeeded, never watched academy training sessions or under-23 games. But by sharp and positive contrast, Lampard will do both as surely a manager, or if you like chief coach, should.

He will also allow the academy players to mix with senior professionals, which they were surprisingly not allowed to do under the previous regime. They will eat with the first-team players and share their gym.

Given the transfer ban which has been imposed this surely makes good sense.

There is no shortage of talent among those who went out on loan and have now returned, including such as Tammy Abraham, Mason Mount, Reece James and Fikayo Tomori.

Boothroyd's perverse tendencies cost England dear

Sometimes even the most experienced managers make inexplicable decisions. And into this baffling category must now come Aidy Boothroyd of the England under-21 side which had such a disappointing time of it in the Euro tournament in Italy.

Hard to explain what possessed him to omit arguably the most gifted and precocious player in his squad for a vital game against Romania. Phil Foden is an outstanding attacking talent and to leave him out seemed wantonly perverse.

Arguably Foden could have made all the difference in what proved to be a catastrophic match which sealed England's fate.

Boothroyd explained that he had dropped the Manchester City starlet "to keep him as fit as we can" for later in the tournament – which ended for England with a 4-2 loss to Romania.

Outstanding... Phil Foden (right)

Remembering the brilliance of Diego Maradona in the Mexican World Cup

Stunning...Diego Maradona scores against Belgium

A new documentary has been released on the career of Diego Maradona, an attacker of prodigious gifts but forever to be bleakly remembered in English football for the punch with which he scored that World Cup goal against England for Argentina in Mexico in 1986.

A devastating solo effort brought him a second goal, but though he had gone past man after man a shrewd Italian journalist opined to me that the English defence was still in a state of shock, like a man who has just had his wallet stolen.

Maybe. But it has to be remembered that in his team's subsequent game, against Belgium, he scored a similar goal.

● Read Brian Glanville's regular online column at worldsoccer.com

Francesco Totti

Roma legend severs ties with Serie A club

To the surprise of many, Roma icon Francesco Totti has broken up with his beloved club. In mid June, the 42-year-old announced he was resigning his director's role and severing all connections.

When Totti ended his playing career two years ago on an emotional night in Rome, it had been presumed that he would continue to work with Roma in some sort of "management" role. Not so, it seems.

In a press conference at the Italian Olympic Committee headquarters in Rome, Totti cut a remarkable figure as he answered questions for 90 minutes. Seated under the imposing mural *The Apotheosis Of Fascism*, a 1928 homage to Benito Mussolini, he might have passed for the last King of Rome, despondently announcing his abdication. After all, Roma has been his whole life, starting as a 12-year-old in 1989 and playing out his entire career with the club.

Totti opened his press conference with words of almost operatic drama, saying: "At 12.41, on today, June 17th, I sent an email to the Roma CEO, Guido Fienga, in which I wrote unthinkable words, handing in my resignation from Roma. I would rather have died..."

It would seem that Totti wanted to make a point, accusing James Pallotta, the club's US co-owner and financial tycoon, of having failed to understand the ethos of the club.

"I never imagined it would get to this," he went on. "And it's not my fault that I have taken this decision. I never had a chance, I was never involved in the technical side of the team.

"But certain people had a fixed idea that they wanted to sideline me...and the other Roman players as well..."

Put simply, Totti blasted the entire

Stepping down... Totti makes his announcement

Icon...being applauded by James Pallotta after his last-ever game for Roma

Pallotta regime, claiming the president makes only occasional visits and, in his absence, too many cooks spoil the broth.

Totti believes Pallotta is badly advised and that he knows no more than 10 per cent of what is going on at the club.

Furthermore, "the final word" always rests with London rather than Roma's training ground, Trigoria – a reference to London-based Franco Baldini, a former

> "Handing in my resignation from Roma...I would rather have died"

Roma employee who served as England assistant manager under Fabio Capello and as technical director to Tottenham Hotspur, under Andre Villas-Boas.

In 2016, Baldini agreed to work for Roma for the third time in his career, as a "consultant". Totti feels Baldini has been listened to by Pallotta in a management context, while he himself was kept out of the loop and little attention was paid to his observations.

To illustrate his point, Totti says that he told the club not to buy Argentinian international Javier Pastore, who was acquired from Paris Saint-Germain last summer for €24.7million. Totti felt that Pastore would not fit into coach Eusebio Di Francesco's 4-3-3 line-up, while also expressing a view in private that there were question marks about the attacking midfielder's physical well-being.

Early days...in action against Foggia in September 1994

Totti would appear to have been right, with Pastore playing just 12 league games in a disappointing, injury-interrupted season, while adding that Di Francesco had asked the club for five players without any of them being bought.

Intriguingly, Totti also admitted that he had talked to former Italy, Juventus and Chelsea coach Antonio Conte about taking the Roma job – and had Conte accepted the job, Totti would have stayed.

And when Totti went on to argue that Roma needs new ownership to win back its place at the top of Italian football, some saw this as paving the way for a future return to the club. That certainly appeared to be the club's reaction, as a communique on that same day read: "In relation to the repeated speculation that Totti might return to the club under a new ownership...we can only hope that this is not some sort of inappropriate warning of an attempt to buy Roma, a scenario that could prove to be very delicate given that Roma is a stock market listed company."

As for Totti's accusations, the club says it has been more than patient with its iconic star, having recently offered him the position of technical director, an offer he apparently rejected. Acknowledging that it had been difficult for Totti to leave Roma after 30 years, the club said: "Nonetheless...we can only point out that Totti's perception of the facts and of the choices made by the club are invented and far from reality."

It was a sour note to end a poor season in which Roma finished sixth in Serie A, exited the Champions League in the round of 16 and could only qualify for this season's Europa League.

Was Totti's rant the usual melancholy of a great champion who, two years on, is still finding it difficult to develop his post-player career? Or is it possible that the club's multinational corporate investors have difficulty assimilating the particular concerns, sensibility and pride of a very particular piazza like Roma?

For now the jury is out and Roma move on without Totti but with a new coach, in Paulo Fonseca, who was with Ukraine side Shakhtar Donetsk last term.

Totti has signalled approval of the appointment of the Portuguese – even though he ruefully adds that it was made with no real input from him.

Paddy Agnew

Luca Waldschmidt

Top scorer at Euro Under-21s

New frontiers are beckoning for the Freiburg ace, whose seven goals for Germany at this summer's Euro Under-21s earned him the Golden Boot as the tournament's leading marksman.

Waldschmidt, so influential in his country's silver medal campaign – scoring in four out of five games and only drawing a blank in the 2-1 loss to Spain in the Final – is suddenly hot property.

Italian sources claim Lazio are desperate to bring him on board, so apparently are RB Leipzig, and it would be no surprise if Bayern Munich or Borussia Dortmund were to elbow their way to the front of the auction-room queue. Bayern need a back-up striker for Robert Lewandowski, while Dortmund could certainly use someone of the left-footer's versatility who is equally effective as a leader of the line or as a second striker.

No doubt Freiburg will initially play hardball, adamant that the now 23-year-old will remain with them for the foreseeable future. Sooner or later, though, the Black Forest outfit will sit down to talk remuneration.

A club of modest financial resources, they always have to cash in on their crown jewels – it's how they survive and prosper in the top flight. The list of ex-Freiburg talent now operating in the Bundesliga and abroad is no abridged affair, featuring Dortmund keeper Roman Burki, club colleague and attacker Maximilian Philipp, Borussia Monchengladbach and Germany defender Matthias Ginter, Fenerbahce front runner Max Kruse, and Leicester City centre-back Caglar Soyuncu.

> "Of all the coaches I've known, Christian Streich is the one who has spent the most time with me on the training ground"

Bought from Hamburg for €5million at the start of last season, Waldschmidt is a typical Freiburg acquisition: a player who, after shining in the youth ranks at Eintracht Frankfurt, failing to become a first-team starter and then generally flattered to deceive in a two-year stint at HSV, where his only contribution of note was a late winner as a sub against Wolfsburg on the final day of the 2016-17 season – a goal which definitively hauled the club out of the relegation zone.

Prior to last season, he had scored just two Bundesliga goals. But able to look beyond the stats, Freiburg boss Christian Streich saw a player of potential and immediately found the key to unlock that talent. For the first time, Waldschmidt had a coach who trusted him and he would go on to respond accordingly, scoring nine Bundesliga goals last season, making another three and constantly impressing with his mobility, spatial awareness, touch and link-up play.

"Of all the coaches I've known, Christian Streich is the one who has spent the most time with me on the training ground," says Waldschmidt. "With him there's frequent feedback, a focus on the smallest details. He shows me video clips of how I can improve my off-the ball runs. He demands I pay more attention to my defensive work, that I put in my share of challenges and make things easier for the guys at the back."

Down-to-earth, modest and definitely not one for the trappings of stardom, Waldschmidt is the boy next door who made good.

Nick Bidwell

Award...Euro Under-21 Golden Boot winner

Sharp...on target against Serbia

Rafa Benitez

Former Newcastle boss taking on tough new task in China

Challenge...coaching Dalian Yifang is a far from easy job

If Rafa Benitez thought that swapping the north east of England for the north east of China was going to make for an easier life, then he may soon be pining for Mike Ashley and Newcastle United. The situation at Dalian Yifang is, to say the least, in flux – which is par for the course at a club that has gone through close to 20 coaches in the past decade.

On Monday, July 1, Choi Kang-hee, who took the job earlier this year, left the club due to "personal reasons". It soon turned out that the biggest reason for his departure was that Benitez was being officially announced as his successor the very next day.

"I'm just really pleased and really excited that someone was really keen to get me, to give me the opportunity to develop a project and, at the same time, with a really good economic proposal," Benitez said upon his arrival halfway through the Chinese Super League (CSL) season. "You want to do something, build something, leave something behind.

"At the same time, you cannot be lying; it's good money."

There have been the usual responses back in Europe that the Spaniard is going to Dalian, a port city east of Beijing with winters that will have Benitez pining for Tyneside, just for the cash.

And there is plenty of money, with the 59-year-old set to earn £30million after tax for a two-and-a-half-year deal, but that is just a drop in the Yellow Sea for club owner Wang Jianlin.

However, the size of the pay packet does not reduce the size of the challenge ahead. with Benitez's first task being to bring a divided dressing room together.

A taciturn South Korean tactician with major success in his homeland and the Asian Champions League, Choi was popular with the Chinese players who were visibly upset as they hugged him goodbye. But he struggled in handling much bigger-name foreign stars than he was used to.

Choi – who moved straight to Shanghai Shenhua to take over from Quique Sanchez Flores, who also left for personal reasons – failed to get the best out of Marek Hamsik, but his biggest problem was Yannick Carrasco.

The Belgium international has performed on the pitch but created waves off it. He made the wrong sort of headlines after hitting a team-mate in training last season. The rumoured Arsenal target, who joined Dalian in February 2018, also claimed that he had been promised a transfer back west this summer. "The whole world knows that I want to return to Europe," Carrasco told UK newspaper the *Daily Mirror* in June. "Now, it depends on the president and I hope he finds a solution."

Choi strongly denied any promises and dropped Carrasco from the team. The former Atletico Madrid star was also criticised by team-mates for his attitude, which allegedly included being booked on purpose so he would get suspended.

> "I'm just really pleased and really excited that someone was really keen to get me, to give me the opportunity to develop a project"

Big names...with Marek Hamsik

Interestingly, Carrasco has been giving his side of the story on English-language social media – announcing that all he wants to do is play football – with Dalian doing theirs on Chinese platforms.

With a united squad, and Hamsik and Carrasco at their best, there is no reason why Dalian should not climb the league table. Qualifying for the 2020 Champions League by finishing in the top three of the CSL is out of the question, but winning the Chinese FA Cup would also provide entry.

Choi guided the team into the quarter-finals; if Benitez can finish the job and lift the trophy then those north-eastern skies will be looking much brighter.

John Duerden

eye witness

Carl Worswick reports

COLOMBIA

Movers make waves in the Caribbean

The island of San Andres is home to a Colombian second-tier side

Historic...fans on San Andres have never had a professional football team before

Amid the plod of a steady reggae beat and under a raging Caribbean sun, the mid-afternoon soporific air is suddenly disturbed. "Yeahhhh monnn!" booms the stadium announcer, as a broken Creole voice crackles from a nearby transistor radio. The teams creep from beneath the shade into the 38-degree heat. Overhead, a huge Saint Andrew's flag wriggles across a sea of hands.

Real San Andres, one of South America's newest and most peculiar football clubs, are about to play their final game of the season. They haven't won a league match at their Estadio Erwin O'Neil all year and today's Colombian second-division game is a dead rubber. Yet the ground's main stand still bustles with over a thousand people.

"I didn't even used to like football," confesses 34-year-old car mechanic Orlando while gurgling a drop of rum into a plastic cup. "But now we have a team, I'm a big fan."

Just a few months ago, Orlando's club were known as Real Santander, a team based in the eastern Colombian city of Floridablanca, not far from the Venezuelan border. Formed in 2006, they had struggled to make ends meet for over a decade. With just a handful of fans and fed up of begging the local council for cash, Real Santander decided

Final fixture...Real San Andres (in blue) and Real Cartagena take to the pitch

to look for a new home.

Three offers came in from across the country, but one immediately stood out – the only snag being the unusual proposal was located 700 miles away.

San Andres, an idyllic seahorse-shaped Caribbean island some 120 miles off the eastern coast of Nicaragua, was once a staging post for pirates such as Henry Morgan to raid Spanish galleons. Colonised by English Puritans in the 17th century but claimed by Colombia shortly after the country won independence, Saint Andrews – as it is known in English – had never had a professional team before and football wasn't even the island's main sport. Yet since late last year, things have slowly started to change.

In Colombia's cash-strapped 16-team Categoria Primera B, the sale and transfer of clubs is a familiar tale. Managing on a shoestring and playing in front of just a few dozen spectators, for the majority of clubs the key to survival is the financial support of rich owners or the local council. And when the plug is pulled, teams are often tossed across the country and sold to the bidder making the loudest promises.

The Colombian football league voted to approve Real Santander's move – which was roughly the same distance that separates London and Barcelona – to San Andres Island at its annual assembly in November 2018. The team would keep its badge and its light-blue-and-white striped shirts, but the entire first-team squad and coaching staff would leave mainland Colombia to go and live in South America's most northerly point.

> "When I first told people, they thought I was a bit daft. But the best ideas often start out as the craziest"
>
> **Real San Andres president Lyle Newball**

"I suppose it's a bit of a curious case and when I first told people they thought I was a bit daft," smiles club president Lyle Newball, who was one of the main architects behind the initiative. "But the best ideas often start out as the craziest."

Crucial to getting Newball's odd idea off the ground was ensuring that islanders were given a chance to play for the team. Two trials were held and six players were given contracts – three with the first team and three with the under-20s – for the start of 2019's opening league phase, the Torneo I.

One of those signed up was local striker David Livingston, the son of a baseball player who was on the verge of joining another team when he heard the news.

"I took the first flight back to San Andres, did the trial and signed straight away," says Livingston. "I didn't need to think twice about it.

"This is massive for the island, everybody is excited."

Livingston believes that very few opportunities have previously existed for local talent to play professionally, with only two players from the island making it in recent years: Angelo Rodriguez, a striker with Minnesota United in MLS, and his younger brother, Arley, who represented Colombia at the 2016 Olympics.

"It's tough," adds Livingston. "If you are good at sport, everybody pushes you into playing basketball or baseball."

Livingston has quickly become a hit with supporters who treat the 22-year-old as a local hero. "It's great to see the stadium full every game," he smiles. "People who had previously supported teams from the mainland now see us as their favourite club."

And it's not just the locals who come to see Colombia's newest team. Despite the long distances and cost of away travel, supporters of some of the bigger second-tier clubs have found a special reason for a weekend away to watch their team play on a tropical island.

On loan...Franky Uribe (right) has joined from two-time Libertadores winners Atletico National

Money spent by fans on food, drink and hotels, as well as the income generated from a $40 tourist visa that all non-residents must pay to enter the island, all help to support the struggling local economy.

"Fans like the idea of a weekend trip away for the football and some time on the beach," beams Newball. "We've even heard of our rivals doing the same!"

Real San Andres have also been active in the local community, getting kids of all ages involved in the team's academy. In turn, that is helping stimulate interest in the island's amateur leagues.

"That doesn't generate much money but it does have a very positive social impact and you can't put a price on

> "People who had previously supported teams from the mainland now see us as their favourite club"
> **Real San Andres striker David Livingston**

that," says Newball.

But for all the intrigue and excitement caused by the new team, not everybody has been left so enthused. Critics point out that the agreement struck between the island and league licence owners Real Santander is in fact no more than a three-year loan, with Real San Andres paying £350,000 per annum to lease the team. The fear is that when the deal runs out, Real Santander's directors may simply opt to return to the mainland.

Already the local press are worried. The island's governor, who signed off on the deal last year, is now in jail for corruption and rumours have recently started that the first instalment of the annual fee has been missed.

Particularly annoyed are some factions of the native Raizal people, a 300-year-old marginalised Afro-Colombian ethnic group who speak English Creole and have their own distinct culture that identifies much more with baseball and basketball. They argue that pouring so much money into a football team that has no assured future and contains very few local players is both risky and wasteful.

Newball claims the team's critics are in the minority and that football's broad appeal is already playing an important role in uniting the island. He also makes assurances that he will do everything possible to secure the team's long-term future. "We have to give it continuity," he claims. "But if the stadium is full and everyone's happy, then why would they want to return?"

Next season, floodlights will be installed to allow night matches to be televised, while there's talk of the club's synthetic pitch being ripped up and replaced with grass. Real San Andres will also have a women's team. But perhaps the best strategy for securing the club's place on the island will be to improve results on the pitch.

As the whistle blows on their debut league campaign and the sun drops over the ground's perimeter wall into the Caribbean Sea, Real San Andres players remain on the pitch celebrating with their supporters after staging a thrilling three-goal comeback to snatch a point with an injury-time equaliser against league leaders Real Cartagena. It's a laudable result, but with just one win in 15 league games, the season hasn't been a great success.

"We're just so naive," moans supporter Orlando as he stuffs the bottle of rum back into his jacket pocket. "If we could just concentrate for 90 minutes we'd be top of the league!"

Not everybody is so downbeat. A steady improvement in form at the end of the season, culminating in qualification to the last 16 of the Copa Colombia, offers hope that, with a first proper pre-season's training under their belts, Real San Andres could charge up the table in the second phase of the league.

This distinctive team has, however, already made history by bringing football to a forgotten corner of the continent and adding a unique flavour to the Colombian league with its burgeoning fan base and colourful Caribbean character.

"People had always talked about San Andres having its own team but nobody actually believed it'd happen," says striker Livingston. "Now we're starting to believe anything's possible." WS

Local support... fans at the Estadio Erwin O'Neil

Comeback...supporters look on (above) as Real San Andres take a free-kick against Real Cartagena

Steve Menary reports

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Pacific Games lures in coach

Dutch boss Rijsbergen unable to resist the opportunity of winning gold with Islanders

As someone who once had his wages paid from the proceeds of a bank robbery during his time playing in Corsica, Wim Rijsbergen appreciates the idea of one last job.

The former Holland defender – who played at the 1974 and 1978 World Cup finals and alongside Pele during the rock'n'roll heyday of New York Cosmos – has taken on an unlikely last challenge: to win this year's Pacific Games with the Solomon Islands.

"I'm 67 and I was retired, but when I got offered this job, my kids said to me: 'Dad, why not?'" says Rijsbergen while watching his new charges from the sidelines of a training session in the Dutch provincial town of Goirle.

"It's the only part of the world I've never worked in and I think I'll be the only Dutch coach at the Pacific Games.

"I was asked and said I would do it for three months if I could bring Jan."

Jan is former Feyenoord team-mate Jan Van Deinsen, his friend and assistant in previous managerial jobs. But their task is far from easy as the Solomons have never won the Games' gold medal and the duo will have had little time to produce a winning team by the start of the finals in Samoa on July 8.

Rijsbergen's squad are in Holland after an invitation from the Netherlands Oceania Support Foundation, but it was a far from straightforward assignment.

Things got off to a bad start when ▸

> "More than 50 of us would take our kayaks to the mainland. The trip would take 20 minutes, then we'd have to walk to the pitch...after, we had a shower in the river and went back home. We did that every day"
>
> **Former international Zantas Cabrini on life as a young footballer**

Going Dutch...coach Wim Rijsbergen (centre) takes training during the Islanders' trip to Goirle

Friendly...Jerry Donga is in the thick of things during June's 4-3 defeat in Singapore

the Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) spent so long booking flights for the three-week trip that prices went up and a 25-man squad had to be reduced to 23. Rijsbergen then flew out to the Solomons' capital, Honiara, to finalise the squad – which had now dropped to 20, with at least one player uncontactable in the disparate Pacific archipelago of more than 900 islands.

Eventually, the first batch of a dozen players arrived in Europe, but they included two goalkeepers so the first friendly, against non-league side RVV Coal, was cancelled. Eight more players turned up two days later for a punishing programme of seven matches in 10 days.

But for jet-lagged Solomon Islanders goalkeeping coach Zantas Cabrini, the grass pitches in Goirle near Tilburg made the journey from Honiara to Papua New Guinea and then on to Singapore and Amsterdam definitely worthwhile.

"There are no pitches there," says former international Cabrini of growing up on Sulufuo, an artificial island built on Lau Lagoon in Malaita Province. "More than 50 of us would take our kayaks to the mainland. The trip would take 20 minutes, then we'd have to walk to the pitch, and we would have more than seven teams and play knockout games.

"After, we had a shower in the river and went back home. We did that every day."

Pitches on outlying islands are rudimentary at best and often feature immovable obstacles. "There are usually coconut trees," says goalkeeper Philip Mango, who grew up in Malaita Province. "We can cut the trees down but have nothing to take the roots out with so we just play around them."

The Solomons have proved amazingly adept at coping with problems on a deprived chain of islands still recovering from a civil war that claimed thousands of lives two decades ago.

Australian troops arrived to keep the peace, but unemployment for young people is estimated at 80 per cent and many adults make a living in the capital by selling betel nut on the streets.

In 2011 the SIFF launched the S-League, but by 2019 only three associations from the outlying islands are now taking part so ambitious players have to head to Honiara for better pitches and opportunities. With the cheapest tickets to games costing just 10 Solomon Island dollars (90p), the S-League has proved popular in a country where football easily outstrips both rugby codes. Players often work for the club owners and, according to the SIFF, they can earn as much as S$3,000 (£290) a week with teams such as Warriors and Eels – although most of the players in Goirle suggest wages are more like S$400 (£39) at smaller clubs and can depend on results.

There is also a local Honiara league, which is the country's oldest and has two divisions of 20 teams, but finding pitch time is difficult as the crumbling Lawson Tama Stadium is reserved for the S-League and internationals only. Local

In charge...Rijsbergen addresses his squad

S-League: 2019

GUADALCANAL
Founded in 2010 by the provincial association from the main island of Guadalcanal, they joined the S-League after winning the Honiara league in 2015 but only managed one point last year after struggling for sponsorship.

HENDERSON EELS
Joined the league in 2017 and only missed out on the title last year on goal difference. Owned by Hudson Wakio, who is boss of local IT firm Advanced Technologies.

KOSSA
Formed by ex-students from King George VI School Association, they won the title in 2007 and were OFC Champions League finalists a year later. SIFF president William Lai is affiliated to the club.

MALAITA KINGZ
From the Malaita Province association, they have recruited players from Papua New Guinea in the past. The owner is former member of parliament, Jimmy "Rasta" Lusibaea.

MARIST
Formed in 1958 by a Catholic brotherhood and winners of three national titles, the last in 2016, they were OFC Champions League semi-finalists last year.

REAL KAKAMORA
Run by the Makira-Ulawa Province association, they were last-minute replacements in the inaugural league for Makuru, who did not want to play on Saturdays for religious reasons.

SOLOMON WARRIORS
Home to most of the national side's players, they also import players from Vanuatu. Owned by politician Bodo Dettke, they were champions in 2018 for a fifth time.

WESTERN UNITED
From Western province and owned by local building magnates Reginald and Choylin Douglas. Title winners in 2015.

Impressive...James Naka in action against Holland during the Solomon Islands' 2-0 win at the 2013 Beach Soccer World Cup

league games are played on the main playing fields in Honiara but these are under threat as a new stadium – being built to host the 2023 Pacific Games – is planned for the site, with financial support coming from Taiwan.

"There are six football, rugby and athletics fields there; two will be lost to the new stadium," says Patrick Miniti, who runs the Marist academy, where more than 100 children attend every Saturday morning. "I don't know where everyone is going to play."

Ironically, the lack of pitches has actually helped the Solomon Islanders, with the skills honed on the beach having helped the country to win four Oceania Beach Soccer Championships and qualify for the Beach World Cup five times since 2006.

The Solomon Islands have also appeared at the last three Futsal World Cups, but the step up to qualifying for an 11-a-side tournament has proved far more difficult – although they reached the Final of the 2018 World Cup qualifiers before losing 8-3 on aggregate to New Zealand.

Henry Fa'arodo, who recently retired from international duty after winning a record 61 caps and scoring 20 goals, says: "The gaps are from an admin level all the way through to the technical level.

"Australia and New Zealand in the 1990s and early 2000s were a class above the rest of the island nations. Their professional set-ups, their player and coach development, and exposure to a professional environment, is way more advanced to the island nations. Is it possible to bridge that gap? Yes, there is a possibility.

"With a semi to professional set-up within the football structure, a professional player and coaching development pathway, and the exposure of players to professional environments, I believe we can bridge that gap."

Winning the Pacific Games this summer is part of that pathway, as is encouraging the growing stream of Solomon Islanders to emulate Fa'arodo and leave home to play professionally overseas.

Islanders usually head for Vanuatu or Fiji in the hope of attracting a club in New Zealand, but adapting is a challenge.

At 16, Fa'arodo joined Kiwi side Nelson Suburbs and spent two decades playing professionally across the Pacific, including a spell at Perth Glory in their first A-League campaign.

"It is quite difficult to play or even be in a professional environment being an islander," says Fa'arodo, who is now 36. "With the different culture and the professional set-up, it is quite daunting at times. I believe that with commitment and a dream to be a professional, things can get better."

Qualifying for the beach and futsal World Cups has helped locals dream, and two teenage Islanders, Raphael Lea'i and Leon Kofana, are in the academy at A-League side Wellington Phoenix.

Lea'i is widely viewed as one of the most exciting players to come out of the Pacific since Fiji's Roy Krishna, who plays for Phoenix and was the A-League's top scorer last season.

Lea'i was selected for the Dutch trip but his school, Scots College, would not release him – to the chagrin of Paul Driessen, who organised the tour and believes that the best Solomon Islanders should look further afield, arguing: "If they only aim for Australia or New Zealand, that is where they will end up."

> "It is quite difficult to play or even be in a professional environment being an islander. With the different culture and the professional set-up, it is quite daunting at times"
>
> **Henry Fa'arodo on playing overseas**

While Rijsbergen, who has coached the national teams of Indonesia and Trinidad & Tobago in the past, may have his sights set firmly on the Pacific Games Final on July 20, he could also be forgiven for looking further ahead to October, when the Islanders head to the Under-17 World Cup finals in Brazil. WS

Strong...Joses Nawo holds off New Zealand's Chris Wood in a 2018 World Cup qualifier

Movers & Shakers

WILLIAM LAI
Re-elected this year to serve another four-year term as SIFF president.

WIM RIJSBERGEN
Capped 28 times by Holland and played in the 1974 World Cup Final. Appointed Solomon Islands coach in April 2019.

MOSES TOATA
Former national coach who became technical director this year after the departure of Spaniard Felipe Vega-Arango.

BENJAMIN TOTORI
With the retirement of Henry Fa'arodo, he has taken over as captain of the national side and is their main source of goals, with 22 in 43 games.

RAPHAEL LEA'I
Top scorer and voted best player at the 2018 Under-16 OFC Championship, he has a scholarship with A-League side Wellington Phoenix.

4
RESPECT
MEN.

WORDS Nick Bidwell

THE ANFIELD COLOSSUS

Liverpool's Dutch defender has a strong case to be seen as the world's best player in 2019

An absolute colossus in more ways than one, Liverpool and Holland centre-back Virgil Van Dijk is a prima facie case of a footballing thoroughbred. The most expensive defender on the planet after swopping Southampton for Anfield in a £75million deal in January 2018; a freshly minted Champions League winner; voted the best player in England last season by fellow professionals; and a decent bet to be the next world player of the year.

In Jurgen Klopp's heavy-metal supergroup, the 28-year-old son of a Surinamese mother and Dutch father cuts the figure of the charismatic lead singer. He controls, marshals, initiates and sets the emotional tone. So how peculiar that in his formative years he mainly struggled for recognition; either rejected, ignored or misunderstood.

Never mind fronting a band, the best he could hope for back in those days was to be a backing vocalist or roadie.

A major disappointment for the adolescent Van Dijk was never having the opportunity to play in the schoolboy ranks of NAC, the number one club in his hometown of Breda in the south of Holland. NAC, regular members of the Dutch top flight, were the team the youngster supported and he dreamt morning, noon and night of one day wearing their yellow-and-black colours.

Initially, his wish looked eminently achievable. Only five years old when he joined the WDS'19 club – Breda's oldest amateur outfit and whose HQ was conveniently located in his home district of Haagse Beemden – he ▸

showed a great deal of promise as a fledgling defender.

"He was not extremely big for his age, but in his positional play he was the best on the pitch," recalled former WDS team-mate and goalkeeper Jordy Brugel in an interview with the *Voetbal Primeur* website. "In one season I only let in one goal – and that was because I had him in front of me.

"He had good technique, was strong in the air and also had the ability to pick out a pass. On the other hand, he could be a little laid-back and uninterested. That has now become his great strength – he never loses his cool."

With WDS boasting close ties to NAC, Van Dijk should, in a perfect world, have been earmarked for a cross-town upgrade. Yet it never materialised. He did have a trial there in 2000, at the age of nine, though by this time he had other clubs fighting over him, notably RBC in Roosendaal and NAC's regional arch-rivals, Willem II.

NAC Fans...like them, Van Dijk is a supporter of the Breda-based club

> "In one season I only let in one goal – and that was because I had him in front of me"
> **WDS keeper Jordy Brugel on team-mate Van Dijk**

He would finally plump for the latter, basing his decision on the fact that Willem were more of an Eredivisie force and that they were playing attractive football under coach Co Adriaanse.

Long-serving NAC scout and coach Jan Lokhoff, for over two decades a faithful servant of the club, acknowledges that the name of Van Dijk often came up in conversation and blames the oversight on an "amateurish" youth system.

NAC, it has to be said, do have a track-record of recruitment miscalculations.

Back in 1997 they passed on the possibility of bringing in a young Den Bosch striker called Ruud Van Nistelrooy and made the same type of faux pas a few years later when opting not to pursue their interest in up-and-coming marksman Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, then with second-tier AGOVV.

Despite the thwarting of his boyhood aspirations, VVD's heart still very much beats for NAC and he told the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper in 2011: "They really are my club. I've a special bond with this team. Even though I've never played for them. How can that be? It's part of being from Breda."

Bearing in mind that he has spent the last six seasons in the UK – starring for Celtic, Southampton and Liverpool – it makes perfect sense that he is an NAC devotee. Not for nothing is the club known as the most British of Dutch outfits and the place to go in Holland for Premier-League inspired atmosphere and passion.

Recommended to Willem II by Jordy Brugel's father Frank – who once played in goal for the club and later coached their keepers – the young Van Dijk would serve a decade-long apprenticeship with the *Tricolores*. Sadly, though, there would be no happy ending. Not once would he make the first-team squad and no

Beginning...making his first start for Groningen

Free...he joined Groningen from Willem II for nothing

Timeline

MAY 1, 2011
Makes his debut for Groningen, coming on as a 72nd-minute substitute in a 4-2 victory over Den Haag.

MAY 29, 2011
Starts his first game and scores twice in a 5-1 win against Den Haag in a Europa League play-off.

OCT 11, 2011
Scores his first Eredivisie goal in a 6-0 thrashing of Feyenoord.

JUN 21, 2013
Joins Celtic and signs a four-year deal.

professional contract was forthcoming.

Angry and frustrated, the 18-year-old Van Dijk had little choice but to head for the exit, moving on a free transfer to Groningen in the summer of 2010.

Given the world-class status that VVD enjoys today, Willem's "no can do" mindset beggars belief. All the more so given Dutch football's excellent reputation for talent development. Nine years later, the Van Dijk decision is still a matter of some acute embarrassment for the North Brabant club, with officials and coaches often looking to pass the buck.

Alfons Groenendijk, Willem's coach between 2009 and 2010, has claimed that, with the club mired in relegation trouble, it would have been pure folly to throw home-grown teenagers like Van Dijk in at the deep end.

Technical director Andries Jonker – later to become Louis Van Gaal's assistant at Bayern Munich and head of the Arsenal academy – maintains he had no dealings with a youth teamer such as Van Dijk. According to Jonker's successor, Henry Van der Vegt, some on the coaching staff had doubts that Virgil would make a good pro.

Edwin Hermans, once in charge of Willem's reserves, argues that all the youngster needed was more faith to be shown in him. "The then head coach, Alfons Groenendijk, actually wanted to use home-grown youngsters," he told *Trouw* newspaper. "However, as we were in the relegation zone, technical director Henry Van der Vegt preferred to go with more experienced players.

"Some were suggesting that he had a lot of limitations. I saw a defender who was big, strong in the air and could win one-on-one duels."

Former Dutch international striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk, who starred for NAC early in his career, believes Van Dijk's problems were rooted in Dutch football orthodoxy. "We only are interested in little, lively and technical players," commented the ex-Celtic and Feyenoord hit man in a piece in the *De Volkskrant* daily paper. "We'd rather have a dwarf play a good pass than a tall guy who's a great header of the ball. It's not always easy to work out how good someone is going to be.

"A striker like Harry Kane also went three years without success before making his breakthrough at Tottenham."

In fairness to Willem, they were not entirely to blame for failing to spot Van Dijk's potential. He did have a tendency to switch off during a game, suffered with his share of knee and groin complaints, and normally took the role of right-back. Only at the age of 17 was he definitively switched to central defence, deemed just the right height after a seven-inch growth spurt increased his frame to 6ft 4in. While Willem merely saw the first few episodes of the new series, Groningen were able to sit back and enjoy the box set in its entirety.

Unlike their counterparts at Willem, the coaching staff at Groningen did not concentrate on what he couldn't do. They focused on the big picture and, for most of his first season there, were happy to let him ripen in the reserves, finally giving him his first start in the second leg of a

Overlooked... Williem II boss Alfons Groenendijk didn't pick Van Dijk

AUG 17, 2013
Makes his debut in the Scottish Premiership in a 2-0 win at Aberdeen.

NOV 9, 2013
On target for the first time with Celtic, he scores twice in a 4-1 victory against Ross County.

MAR 26, 2014
Celtic win 5-1 at Partick to clinch the Scottish league title.

MAR 15, 2015
Wins the Scottish League Cup as Celtic beat Dundee United 2-0 in the Final.

Europa League play-off against Den Haag in May 2011. Already 5-1 down from the first-leg, Groningen were ostensibly dead and buried. But they spectacularly restored parity in the return, with their own 5-1 victory punctuated by a two-goal salvo from the rookie – definite shades of his Liverpool debut later in his career when he headed in a late winner in a 2-1 FA Cup third-round victory over city neighbours Everton.

Although Groningen eventually succumbed to Den Haag on penalties, VVD could hold his head high.

He had proved he belonged in the Dutch top flight, scoring two fine goals – a curling direct free-kick and a composed finish after inexplicably breaking free on the left – and displaying a cool, big-match temperament.

Prior to making his mark on the score sheet he had gifted Den Haag their equaliser, clumsily diverting a cross into the path of Lex Immers. Most youngsters would have completely lost their mental bearings after such an error, but Van Dijk took it all in his stride.

> "I find it unbelievable that the big Dutch clubs were not willing to take him"
> **TV pundit Kees Kwakman**

Dutch international winger Arjen Robben – a lifelong Groningen fan who started his career with the club – was there at the Euroborg Stadion that day and he would have been especially impressed by Van Dijk's performance, which was a rare mix of free-spirited dash, self-confidence and toughness.

The ice was now broken; he was off and running. Over the next two seasons, Van Dijk would be a first-choice centre-back for Groningen, constantly catching the eye with his physical presence, bite in the tackle, aerial threat from corners and bold bursts into enemy territory. Along with Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez and Serb midfielder Dusan Tadic, Van Dijk must be regarded as one of Groningen's best-ever acquisitions.

It's interesting how often the name Koeman crops up in the VVD story.

Martin Koeman – a former Holland central defender and father to Dutch internationals Ronald and Erwin – was part of the Groningen scouting panel that pushed for Van Dijk to be brought in, while Ronald Koeman's coaching career has frequently involved the Breda man mountain. In his capacity as Southampton boss, Ronald signed Van Dijk for £13million in September 2015 and on taking over as Holland *Bondscoach*, in the spring of last year, immediately made him his skipper.

Whereas promising young Dutch players tend to gravitate to one of the country's three most important clubs – Ajax, Feyenoord or PSV – Van Dijk would not follow that path. Despite a sustained period of good form with Groningen and a first cap for the Dutch under-21s in November 2011 – in a 2-1 loss at home to Scotland – respect was hard to find.

In 2013 his advisors did their best to secure a move to one of the country's "big three", but technical directors in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Eindhoven were not interested. Ajax preferred to

Celtic star... in Glasgow

International duty... playing for Holland under-21s against Scotland

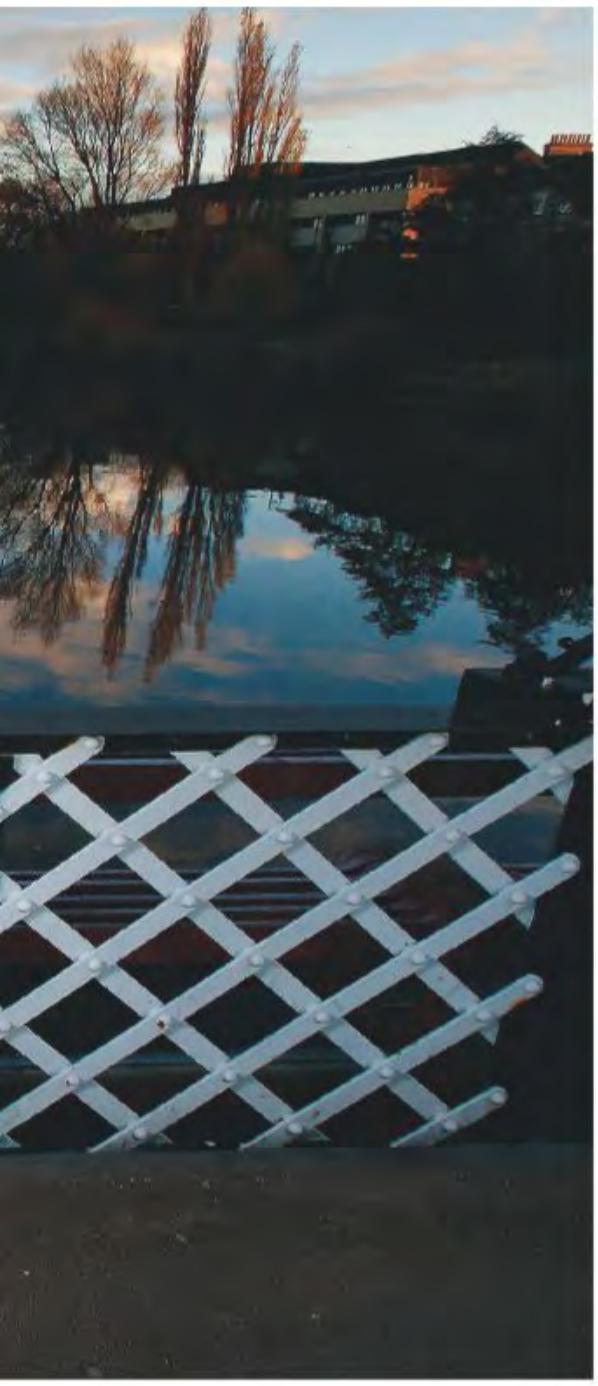
MAY 2, 2015
Aberdeen's 1-0 defeat at Dundee United hands Celtic the Premiership title.

SEP 1, 2015
Agrees a five-year contract with Premier League club Southampton.

SEP 12, 2015
His Premier League debut, against West Brom, ends 0-0.

OCT 10, 2015
Wins his first full cap for Holland, in a 2-1 victory away to Kazakhstan in a Euro qualifier.

MAY 7, 2016
Signs a new six-year contract with Southampton.



Learning his trade...experiencing European football, playing against Milan, with Celtic

swoop for another young centre-back in Utrecht's Mike Van der Hoorn, while PSV went for Hamburg stopper Jeffrey Bruma.

Instead, Van Dijk would have to look elsewhere, eventually signing that summer for Scottish side Celtic, with the cost a snip at £2.6m.

History has not been at all kind to those Ajax and PSV decisions. Just as Van Dijk finds himself on top of the world, Bruma and Van der Hoorn have floundered. Bruma had to move on loan to Schalke last season after being marginalised at another Bundesliga club, Wolfsburg, while Van der Hoorn currently plays in the English second tier with Swansea City.

Dutch TV pundit Kees Kwakman, who used to play alongside Van Dijk at Groningen, was one of the first Dutch football voices to lambast the powerhouse clubs for their indifference towards Van Dijk.

"I find it unbelievable that the big Dutch clubs were not willing to take him on," Kwakman told *Voetbal International* magazine. "Now he's going to Celtic for the sort of money that even Dutch clubs could have coughed up."

A much-heard theme on the Dutch circuit was that VVD was a dilettante, the sort of player who always had a mistake in him and whose commitment could be called into question. Another charge on the indictment sheet was that he only really turned it on against lesser sides, that when Groningen faced Ajax or PSV he never quite hit the heights.

He also had his detractors within the walls of the KNVB, the Dutch federation. Under-21 boss Cor Pot only deployed him three times for the *Jong Oranje* and left him out of his squad for the 2013 European Championship in Israel.

Nor was he part of Louis Van Gaal's World Cup 2014 plans, with the coach preferring the likes of Ron Vlaar, Stefan De Vrij, Bruno Martins Indi, Joel Veltman and Terence Kongolo.

From the vantage point of today, Van Dijk's failure to make the Brazil 2014 cut seems nonsensical. Yet for the ever-demanding Van Gaal, the choice was simplicity itself. Van Dijk's style made him shudder and the former Ajax, Barcelona and Manchester United

Big time...in the Premier League with Southampton

JAN 22, 2017

An ankle injury against Leicester rules him out of the Football League Cup Final, against Manchester United.

AUG 7, 2017

Hands in an official transfer request.

DEC 27, 2017

Liverpool announce he will join for a reported fee of £75m on January 1.

JAN 5, 2018

Scores the winning goal on his Liverpool debut, in a 2-1 win against rivals Everton in the FA Cup.

Beating the best ...competing with Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal

leader continues to have his reservations.

"Once in a while, I see him make the same mistakes he did in 2014," explained Van Gaal earlier this year on Ziggo Sport TV. "He does at times let an opponent run in behind his back and he does not always push forward to defend."

Van Gaal's Exhibit A? The way France striker Olivier Giroud nipped ahead of Van Dijk before volleying home in a Nations League tie in September 2018.

Cor Pot, however, is much more willing to pour conciliatory praise on the late-blooming Van Dijk, admitting to *Voetbal Primeur*: "I've had to revise my opinion of him. He was not so mobile, turned with difficulty and could be easily outplayed.

"In recent years, he has learnt an enormous amount tactically. Now he's become a top defender. "

Thanks to his size and physicality, Van Dijk always was going to be a hit in Britain. Bodily power is such a vital facet of the UK game and he has this particular commodity in spades. As his former Celtic manager Neil Lennon once noted, unsuspecting forwards invariably bounce off him.

And such is the giant central defender's imperious aura, that many opponents are at a disadvantage from the start. He undoubtedly intimidates.

If Groningen was his launch pad, his stints at Celtic, Southampton and Liverpool have served as space stations en route to the moon.

At Celtic, where he contributed to two consecutive Scottish league titles, he had his first taste of the Champions League and was taught how to meet expectations in a footballing hotbed. In his two seasons with Southampton he worked on his leadership skills. As for Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, he offered him a crash course in tactics, particularly in the nuances of proactive pressing. Bit by bit, step by step, the Dutchman has emerged as the complete centre-back package.

> "In recent years, he has learnt an enormous amount tactically. Now he's become a top defender"
>
> **Former Holland under-21 boss Cor Pot**

Highlight...lifting the Champions League

Van Dijk was not coached as a boy to be a headline act, he had to pick it up as he went along. In this sense he's a self-made man. The vast majority of Dutch superstars were already flying high as teenagers, but Van Dijk was relatively advanced at 24 when then-coach Danny Blind handed him his first full cap, in October 2015.

One of the game's slow burners, he has been able to stay grounded and keep a healthy perspective.

Strength of character is what has seen him through the hard times. And he has certainly endured many of those, not least his father walking out on his mother when Virgil was just 12. Later on, he needed to supplement his meagre Willem youth-team income with cash from dishwashing duties at a Breda restaurant. And last but by no means least, there was a brush with death in his second season at Groningen.

Admitted to hospital in April 2012 with peritonitis and kidney poisoning, he admits that thoughts of mortality crossed his mind. "I was lying in bed and all I could see were tubes and connections to machines," he told *Voetbal International*.

"My body was broken. I couldn't do anything. My mother and I prayed to God and spoke about what might be in store. At one point, I had to sign some papers. It was a sort of will.

"I looked death straight in the eye. That wasn't pretty."

Happily for football lovers, he would be back in the game four months later.

It's been a rocky road to the top, but all that matters now is that Van Dijk has made it to the summit. As the former San Francisco 49er coach Bill Walsh once wrote: "Success doesn't care which road you take to get to its doorstep." WS

MAR 23, 2018
Captains his country for the first time, in a 1-0 home loss to England.

MAR 26, 2018
Scores his first international goal, in a 3-0 win over European champions Portugal.

MAY 26, 2018
A losing finalist in the Champions League Final as Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1.

JUN 1, 2019
Named man of the match as Liverpool beat Tottenham 2-1 in the Champions League Final.

Virgil Van Dijk

the numbers game

TRANSFER FEES

£2.6m GRONINGEN TO CELTIC (2013)

£13m CELTIC TO SOUTHAMPTON (2015)

£75m SOUTHAMPTON TO LIVERPOOL (2018)

HOLLAND

28 CAPS

4 GOALS

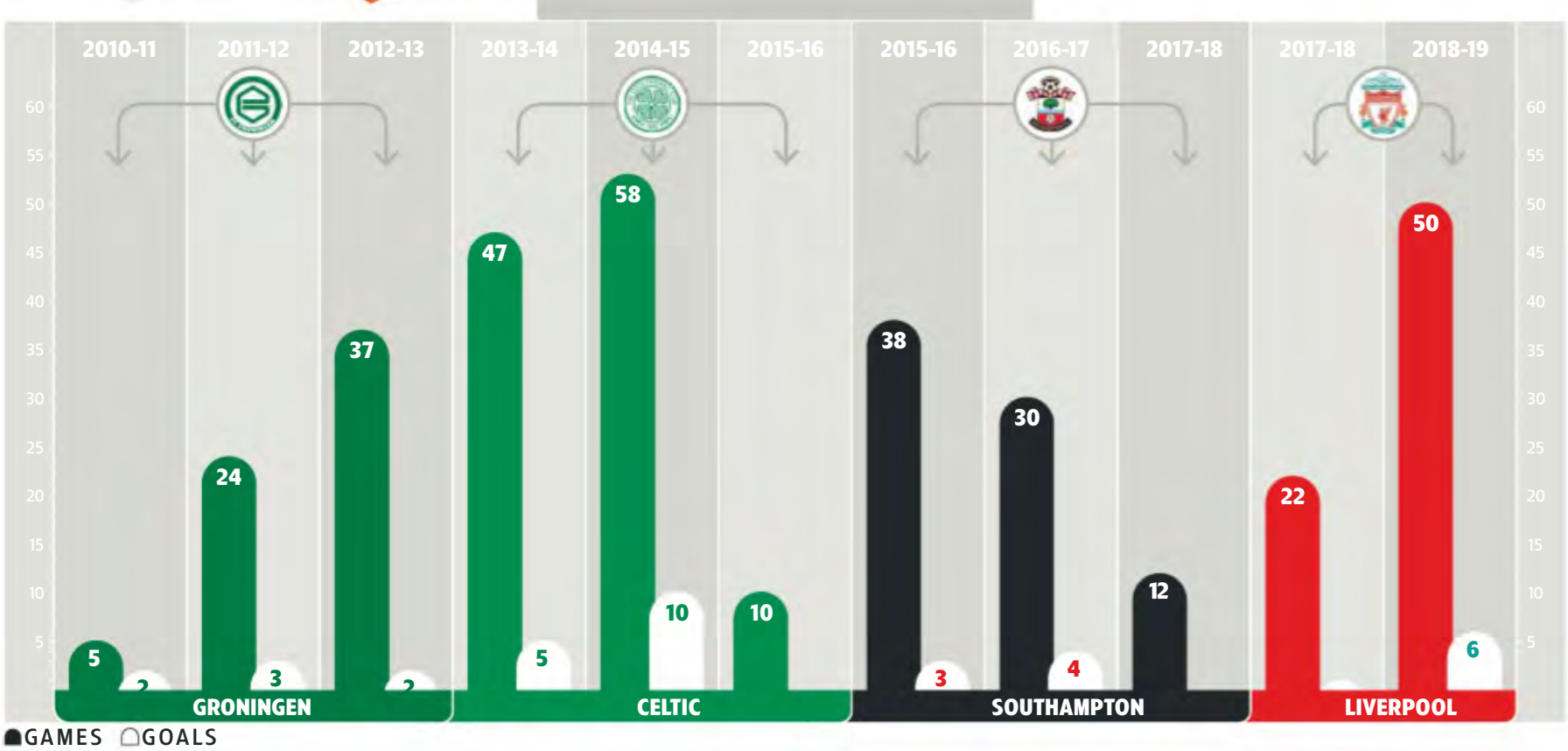
WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE DEFENDERS (€m)

117 ... years. Became the first player to make his Liverpool debut and score in the Merseyside derby since Bill White in 1901

PFA PLAYER OF THE SEASON

- 2014 — LUIS SUAREZ (Liverpool)
- 2015 — EDEN HAZARD (Chelsea)
- 2016 — RIYAD MAHREZ (Leicester City)
- 2017 — N'GOLO KANTE (Chelsea)
- 2018 — MOHAMED SALAH (Liverpool)
- 2019 — VIRGIL VAN DIJK (Liverpool)

HONOURS



Rapinoe makes America

VAR played a key role in the Final as USA triumph in breakthrough tournament

From Glenn Moore in Lyon

great again

Final...Megan Rapinoe celebrates scoring the USA's opening goal with team-mates Alex Morgan (centre) and Samantha Mewis

It was perhaps inevitable that the decisive moment in the eighth Women's World Cup Final would be determined by the Video Assistant Referee.

VAR had been a presence throughout the tournament, influencing matches, inflaming social media, overshadowing every goal celebration. So the process was all-too familiar to the 57,000 crowd in Lyon, and the millions watching on television, when, shortly after referee Stephanie Frappart had signalled a corner, her hand went to her ear, she indicated play be paused, then she jogged off to the touchline TV screen.

Seconds later, to Dutch despair and American jubilation, she signalled for a penalty. Megan Rapinoe, the tournament's most significant player, despatched the 61st-minute kick and the United States were on their way to a fourth star on their shirt.

It should be noted the USA would probably have found another way through the Holland defence eventually. Well-organised though Sarina Wiegman's team were, they were already indebted to keeper Sari Van Veenendaal. Physical, technically neat and tactically well set-up, the Dutch had resisted the US far longer than anyone else but rarely looked like scoring themselves. They had also played

> No one could argue the USA were not worthy winners. European teams are closing the gap, but there is still a significant bridge to cross

30 minutes extra-time in their semi-final and had a day's less recovery time.

Not only were the US already better and fitter, in draining humidity and 30-degree heat they were less exhausted. It was no surprise when they doubled their lead through Rose Lavelle.

That settled the game and confirmed American primacy. They had been pushed hard by Spain, France and England, and needed some fortune along the way, but no one could argue they were not worthy winners. European teams are closing the gap, but, with the US accounting for two-thirds of the world's female footballers, there is still a significant bridge to cross. Any team that can put players such as Christian Press, Mallory Pugh and Morgan Brian on the bench is a very strong one.

It is also important to note this was VAR working correctly. Stefanie Van der Gragt, stretching to clear Tobin Heath's deflected cross, had connected with Alex Morgan's arm with her studs. The referee, behind the two players, could not see this, but the camera could. A "clear and obvious error" needed correction.

If only it had always been so clear and

Penalty...VAR penalises Stefanie Van der Gragt for this foul on Alex Morgan

obvious. Had FIFA settled for just introducing VAR to the women's game there would have been few complaints. The referees, with limited previous experience of the system, did not handle it as well as their male counterparts at World Cup 2018, taking far too long when viewing the touchline screen, but it did usually correct errors. This was beneficial as while the refereeing had improved since 2015 it was still below par too often, re-opening the debate about only using female referees. It is not easy for female referees to gain experience of officiating in high-pressure matches with big crowds, and at times that showed.

However, FIFA also asked the referees to incorporate the latest changes in the laws and their interpretations introduced on June 1. UEFA had delayed bringing these in, so they were not used at the Nations League finals. The contentious changes related to handball, and goalkeeper encroachment at penalties.

A new ruling states that if in the build-up to a goal the ball hits an arm it will be disallowed, regardless of intent. That ruled out Ellen White's goal in the third-place play-off against Sweden robbing White of the Golden Boot.

Defenders also had problems as FIFA followed the strict interpretation adopted in the Champions League that if a player made the body "unnaturally bigger" it would be handball regardless of distance from the shot.

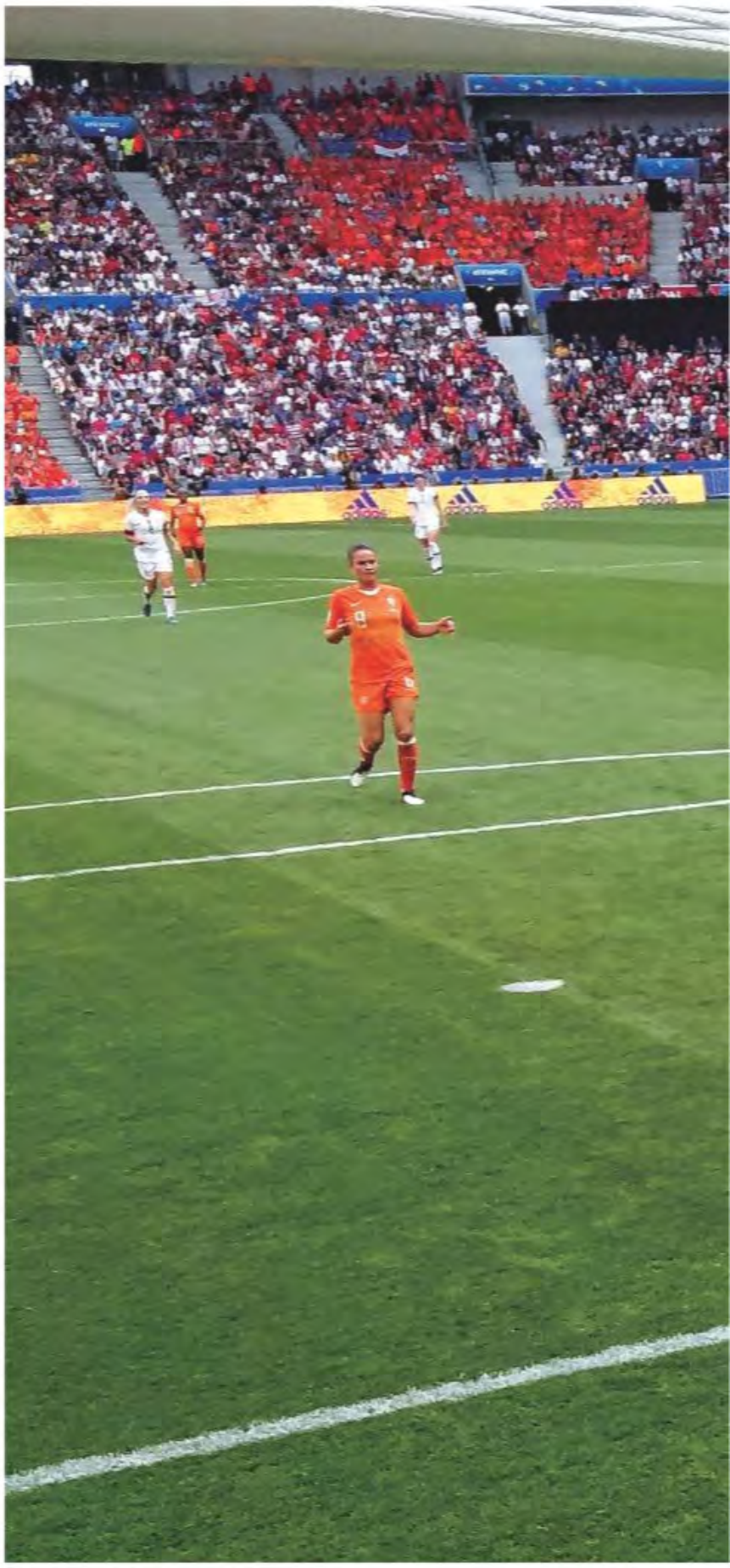
This initially seemed to work on the principle that if the ball hit an arm it was a penalty and led to the very harsh exit of Japan in the last 16 when a shot by Holland's Vivianne Miedema hit Saki Kumagai. The interpretation appeared to soften slightly as the tournament went on, with America's Kelley O'Hara escaping a very similar incident in the quarter-final against France.

Also game-changing was the penalising of Nigeria's goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie for coming a few inches off her line when saving a penalty by France's Wendie Renard. Given the attention paid to this incident there was sympathy, but less excuse for Scotland's Lee Alexander when similarly punished the following night – Florencia Bonsegundo's successful last-minute retake put Scotland out.

The keepers were booked and, fearing farce, FIFA subsequently announced any infringement during a penalty shoot-out would not result in a caution. In the event there was only one shoot-out, between Norway and Australia, which passed with no problems.

While it is true that goalkeepers, and to an extent defenders, adapted as the tournament went on, many in the sport were furious that such a major event had been used to bed in new rulings. Would that have happened in the men's game? Well, to an extent it did, with VAR being introduced at the 2018 World Cup, but the new laws and interpretations did seem to increase the jeopardy.

"Handball I think is the big problem," said England boss Phil Neville after the



Finish...Rose Lavelle scores USA's second goal against Holland

Impressive...Holland's Sari Van Veenendaal

tournament. "It wouldn't surprise me if FIFA have a look after this World Cup and change or tweak the wording."

The English Premier League didn't wait for the governing body to act. Setting themselves on a collision course with FIFA, given the league's global viewing, they said they would not be as strict on handballs and not use VAR for keeper encroachment at penalties next season.

Another problem was how long the process took. VAR was involved in Germany's first two goals against Nigeria in the round of 16. First it was used to judge if Svenja Huth, standing in an offside position, was interfering with goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie's view when Alexandra Popp headed in a corner (she was, but it wasn't ruled out for reasons we'll come to later). Then it gave a penalty for a foul on Lina Magull after the referee had waved play on. The goals were more than seven minutes apart, but due to VAR consultation there were only 17 seconds actual play. This was not all made up by time added on.

> "It wouldn't surprise me if FIFA have a look after this World Cup and change or tweak the wording"
>
> **England boss Phil Neville on the new handball ruling**

Of the first decision, Manchester United manager and ex-England international Casey Stoney said: "She has to be offside. I can't understand what is going on in this World Cup." This followed similar decisions not to give offside against Australia's Sam Kerr against Brazil and America's Carli Lloyd against Sweden when their positioning clearly influenced defenders leading to goals. There is obviously work to be done educating players, coaches, fans, journalists and officials, including those using the VAR who often appeared overly zealous – as with the penalty against Norway's Ingrid Engen against France when no French player had even appealed, never mind "a clear and obvious error" being made.

Refereeing was not the only area in which FIFA invoked the ire of the women's game. Marketing on the ground was poor. In some host cities you had no idea a World Cup was on. Ticketing was fraught with problems, from telling supporters there was no guarantee people who bought tickets together would sit together, to telling the media matches were sold out when they were not. This led to thousands of empty seats at many matches as fans did not think

they were available. Though the total attendance was given as 1,131,312 – with an average 21,756 – it may well have been less than one million paying spectators as FIFA counted freebies given to sponsors. The continuing policy of only allowing fans to purchase tickets, food and merchandise on credit through the relevant FIFA sponsor also angered – and reduced sales.

Add in FIFA's ungenerous lift in prize money, and general fan antipathy towards an organisation with such a chequered recent history, it was unsurprising that Gianni Infantino was loudly booed when he emerged to present the trophy in the final in Lyon. The FIFA president also had his ear bent by Rapinoe, who backed up her public comments calling for greater equality by asking the man in person when he presented the baubles. Of the boos she said: "A little public shame never hurt anybody."

Rapinoe, an outspoken activist for gay rights who refuses to sing the national anthem as a substitute protest in support of NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's Black Lives Matter campaign – having been banned by US Soccer from "taking a knee" – had already had a spat with the US president Donald Trump. This came after a video clip emerged of her stating "no way will I go to the f***ing White House" were the team to be invited. Lavelle was the best player of the tournament, but no one had more presence than Rapinoe.

FIFA did some things well. In the stadia it felt just like a men's World Cup, right down to the extensive security –understandable given France's recent history of terrorist atrocities. For the 1,300 media, accredited behind-the-scenes processes and facilities were exactly the same. They also had an impressive social-media campaign run by a highly committed branch of the organisation which attracted more than a million new followers with content viewed more than a billion times.

Some of the television numbers were just as staggering. The Final was the most watched programme on Dutch TV since the 2014 men's World Cup semi-final between Holland and Argentina. England's semi-final with USA brought in the UK's biggest TV audience of the year, more than 11 million, while their quarter-final against Norway was even shown on big screens at Glastonbury – thanks to a request by midfielder Georgia Stanway, whose brother was at the music festival. In Brazil 35m watched their match with France, French TV audiences topped 10m for their matches, the record viewing figure in Italy for women's football, previously 200,000, was shattered as 7.3m tuned into their match with Brazil.

Viewing figures grew as the tournament went on indicating people who may have initially been curious were becoming engaged. The high standard of football, physically and technically, the impressive settings and the relative absence of dissent and simulation, all proved enticing.

Suddenly people were discussing the game in "'normal"' terms, arguing tactics and decisions, not patronising ones. Results were mostly predictable, but since most viewers' advance knowledge was slim that wasn't an issue. Matches were even shown in the Arab world by pirate broadcaster beoutQ, which is widely regarded as Saudi-based, even though Saudi Arabia doesn't have a national women's team of its own.

As viewing figures grew so did commercial interest. In the US Fox, which showed US-France on the vast screen in Times Square, sold advertisement slots for thrice the price achieved in 2015, despite the latter being in a more favourable time zone. Nike announced the women's US shirt was its fastest selling of all time and Budweiser and ESPN agreed sponsor and broadcast deals respectively with the National Women's Soccer League.

All this backed up the US team's equal pay suit against US Soccer, a dispute which led to the crowd at the final chanting "equal pay" as the dignitaries appeared for the trophy presentation.

The Spanish FA agreed a deal to

Work in progress... the VAR process still needs some tweaking

> "A little public shame never hurt anybody"
> **Megan Rapinoe of the USA calls out Gianni Infantino over greater equality**

Chaos...Cameroon almost walked off in protest during their game against England

Champions... the United States celebrate once more

stream their league matches on the new uefa.tv platform, though more significant was the news that Real Madrid are to finally have a women's team, taking over the established, and newly-promoted, Tacon club over the next 12 months.

However, there remains a long way to go, especially outside Europe and the US, whose joint dominance was evident in the make-up of the last eight. In large parts of the world misogyny, ingrained through cultural or religious beliefs, holds women's football back. In others there is a lack of funds. Asked how the game can grow Rapinoe sang the chorus of the Abba song *Money, Money, Money*.

The cash is there. FIFA's reserves at the start of the year were $2.74billion and even Infantino said "we don't need all that money in Swiss banks". The president made this comment as he announced the doubling of investment in women's football to $250m a year and an increase in prize money for 2021 to $60m, quadrupling the 2015 figure. This would have been better received if prize money for the men's finals were not rising by $80m over the equivalent finals (2014-2022) to $440m.

Infantino also called for an increase in participating countries to 32, adding to his push for a Women's Club World Cup and global Nations Cup-style competition. These ambitions look as much political as benevolent but there are benefits. Outside Europe and north America many countries do not play friendlies. Nigeria did not play in 2017 and Argentina and Chile went more than two years without a match in between editions of the Copa America Femenina. A Club World Cup may also raise standards though with both initiatives the fixture calendar could be problematic.

Dispute...referee Riem Hussein awards a penalty against Norway which is then overruled by VAR

The issue with expanding the finals is twofold. It would mean reopening a bidding process that already has nine candidates and was due to be decided in March 2020. Moreover, is the quality there? Matches like the USA's 13-0 drubbing of Thailand are good for no one. The four debutants lost 10, drew one and won one of their 12 games, with Chile beating Thailand, Scotland drawing with Argentina, while South Africa and Jamaica lost all three matches.

But something needs to be done to address the growing gulf between western Europe, where FAs and the big men's clubs are investing, north America, where the women's game is widely played and becoming a commercial force, and the rest of the world.

Scotland were the only one of the nine European teams not to advance from the group stages and seven of those made the last eight. The US beat five European teams, but of the other 28 Europe-Rest of the World encounters Europe won 23 (plus a shoot-out) with only Scotland losing to Japan and an already-qualified Italy to Brazil. This reflects the playing bases: of the nine nations with more than 100,000 registered players seven made the last eight and the other two (Canada and Australia) were knocked out by teams that did. The odd one out was Italy.

While the South American sides performed better than expected the Asian ones did worse. Two African teams scraped into the knockout stage but Nigeria were then beset by yet another pay dispute while Cameroon imploded spectacularly against England, at one stage threatening to walk off.

Neville said that match damaged women's football. It did not, and not just because, as ex-England striker Eniola Aluko pointed out, it was just one match.

Instead, like Alex Morgan's tea-drinking goal celebration and Rapinoe's spat with Trump, it got people talking about the event. This was the first Women's World Cup the world really noticed.

A clear and obvious success.

Glenn Moore's team of the tournament

Europe 7, Rest of the World 1

LAST 16

As France began to warm up with the beginnings of what would prove to be an extreme heatwave, so did the World Cup.

Germany and Nigeria launched the round of 16 in steamy Grenoble but VAR was once again the hot topic. After 20 even minutes, Alex Popp popped in Sara Dabritz's corner but goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie's view appeared to have been obscured by Svenja Huth in an offside position. After viewing the footage, referee Yoshimi Yamashita disagreed. Nigeria, disgruntled, kicked off, lost possession, and conceded a penalty, given on VAR advice, which Dabritz converted and Germany eased to victory.

In the evening came the first penalty shoot-out following a gripping match between Norway and Australia in which the latter equalised late in normal time but had Alanna Kennedy sent off in extra-time. After Sam Kerr, to widespread shock, put Australia's first spot-kick high and wide Norway cruised to victory, 4-1.

African suspicions of VAR favouring European teams exploded as Cameroon threatened to abandon their match against England. Discontent began when Steph Houghton converted a free-kick awarded for Annette Ngo Ndom picking up what was adjudged a back pass by Augustine Ejangue, but might have just been a poor first touch.

VAR was not involved then but it was when Ellen White's fourth goal of the tournament was disallowed for offside, then given. Cameroon initially refused to kick off, then considered not emerging for the second period. When they did there was more uproar as Ajara Nchout's goal was ruled out for offside.

By now referee Qin Liang had lost control. With the match's destiny decided following an Alex Greenwood goal, she decided not to give a penalty for a foul on Fran Kirby or a red card for a lunge on Houghton in added time. England coach Phil Neville said the game was "a disgrace", "a shame" and "not football", while Cameroon's Alain Djeumfa intimated the match had been fixed in England's favour.

France and Brazil served up a more appetising match as Brazil produced their best football of the tournament but lost to an extra-time goal from French captain Amandine Henry. Afterwards, Marta gave an impassioned appeal to young Brazilian girls to work hard to fulfil their dreams as she, Christiane and Formiga would "not be around forever".

Hitherto the holders had barely had to break into second gear, but in Reims Spain made the USA work. It took two coolly converted Megan Rapinoe penalties – the second questionable following the mildest of contact on Rose Lavelle – to put them through. In between, a mix-up between Alyssa Naeher and Becky Sauerbrunn had been clinically punished by Jennifer Hermoso.

As expected, Sweden's match against Canada was tight, and was settled by two moments of Scandinavian brilliance. Ten

Protest...Cameroon players surround referee Qin Liang

Thwarted...Mana Iwabuchi of Japan is stopped by Holland

minutes after the break, Kosovare Asllani supplied the perfect pass for Stina Blackstenius to score with the game's first shot on target. Fourteen minutes later, VAR spotted Desiree Scott's shot had crashed into Asllani's arm at close range. Up stepped Janine Beckie but Hedvig Lindahl dived to her right to save.

Resurgent Italy eased to a 2-0 win over China, supersub Aurora Galli coming off the bench to score for a third time.

Then came the clash between the European and Asian champions. Lieke Martens, who had been quiet during the tournament, opened the scoring with a clever flick but Yui Hasegawa levelled with a sublime finish following an intricate passing move. Japan dominated the closing stages but, with Hina Sugita hitting the bar, Holland held on and then snatched victory with another controversial VAR handball. Saki Kumagai was the unlucky defender, her arm struck by a close-range Vivianne Miedema shot. Martens mercilessly put away the penalty.

Beaten...Germany's Svenja Huth battles with Sweden

QUARTER-FINALS

While much of France simmered in temperatures in excess of 40 degrees, England versus Norway escaped the worst of the heat and a 9pm kick-off ensured a decent tempo in Le Havre.

Much of the running was made by England, who scored early through Jill Scott and Ellen White. Lucy Bronze's thunderbolt from a neat free-kick routine sealed victory and England could even afford another penalty failure, Nikita Parris denied by Ingrid Hjelmseth. However, only some crucial interventions by Karen Bardsley and Steph Houghton ensured a clean sheet.

Next up, in Paris, the hosts met the holders, and again the US struck early, Megan Rapinoe's free-kick somehow filtering through a crowd of players and in. France lacked fluency and urgency as they sought a way back, and Eugenie Le Sommer missed the only real chance they created before Rapinoe struck again. Wendie Renard headed in to set up a tense finish and, with France dominant, Jill Ellis withdrew Julie Ertz into a five-woman defence.

The breakthrough might have come when an Amel Majri cross struck the arm of Kelley O'Hara, who had turned her back. It looked, based on the interpretation hitherto used, like a penalty, but VAR this time sided with the defender. It was third time unlucky for France who had been rescued by VAR against Norway and Nigeria.

There was less tension in Valenciennes the following day as, in suffocating afternoon heat, Holland punished Italy from two set-plays to progress, Vivianne Miedema and Stefanie Van der Gragt heading in pinpoint deliveries from Sherida Spitse.

Determined... England's Lucy Bronze takes on the USA

A few hours later, Germany and Sweden were sweltering in Grenoble. Sweden had lost eight and drawn one of nine competitive meetings between the two since 1995. When Lina Magull scored, their stranglehold seemed set to continue. However, Sofia Jakobsson having already been denied once by Almuth Schult after exposing a square German defence, was put through by another long ball and levelled the scores.

At the break Germany brought on Dzsenifer Marozsan, still nursing the toe broken in the opening game against China. But within three minutes her task grew as Stina Blackstenius followed up after Schult had saved Fridolina Rolfo's header. Though Marozsan was clearly not fit her set-pieces caused problems, but Sweden had slayed "the German ghost".

SEMI-FINALS

The US upset England before kick-off by checking out their Lyon hotel with a view to moving in after the semi-finals. Then they set about dismantling a defence that had been papering over cracks all tournament.

A high-tempo bombardment tore great holes in the fabric and it was no surprise when Christian Press – in for the injured Megan Rapinoe – headed in a deep cross. England were overrun but then the predatory Ellen White pounced on Beth Mead's fine cross to level. However, Lindsay Horan was given time and space to pick out Alex Morgan to restore the first-half lead. England rallied and White thought she had levelled again only for VAR to show her offside by a boot. Then VAR provided a lifeline, picking up Becky Sauerbrunn nudging White off-balance when about to tap in Demi Stokes' cross.

The US upset England before kick-off by checking out their Lyon hotel with a view to moving in after the semi-final

With Nikita Parris having had two spot-kicks saved, it was captain Steph Houghton who stepped up. But the 83rd-minute penalty was poor, Alyssa Naeher saved easily. England's exit was confirmed when Millie Bright saw a second yellow for a challenge on Morgan.

The venue was the same 24 hours later but there was less drama as Sweden and Holland went goalless into extra-time before Jackie Groenen found a pocket of space and shot inside the far post for the Dutch.

THIRD PLACE

Sweden took bronze in Nice, punishing a slow England start with two early goals.

Fran Kirby, finding form too late, halved the deficit and Ellen White thought she had levelled with her seventh of the tournament. However, VAR found she had made accidental, and unavoidable, contact with her upper arm.

Phil Neville later described the third-place play-off as "a nonsense match" but the Swedish celebrations, and the angry response from those English 2015 bronze medallists who had since dropped out of the squad, would suggest otherwise.

Group by group

GROUP A

France's passage to the knockout stage began with a joyous whirlwind, South Korea being blown away in front of a rapturous 45,000 fans, with president Emmanuel Macron heading the guest list.

On their Parc des Princes debut, the French players looked nervous, but once the game began Corinne Diacre's team overran the Koreans. Kadidiatou Diani and Amandine Henry combined for Eugenie Le Sommer's ninth-minute opener, and two thumping headers from corners by Wendie Renard followed before Henry capped a comprehensive victory with a sumptuous late goal.

In Reims the following day, Norway's players were finally able to put the debate over Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg's absence behind them as they eased to a 3-0 victory over Nigeria.

All the goals came in the first half with the second celebrated by a "team selfie" pose that seemed to be making a point about togetherness.

Nigeria recovered to brush aside the disappointing Koreans 2-0 but the main action of the second round of matches was in Nice. Diacre recalled Valerie Gauvin, dropped from the opening game for twice being late for training, and she struck early in the second half. However, after Renard inexplicably passed into her own goal, Norway looked good for a point. Then Ingrid Engen was bewilderingly adjudged by VAR to have fouled Marion Torrent as she cleared the ball, although none of the French players appealed. Le Sommer despatched the kick to put France through.

Norway joined them with a 2-1 victory over South Korea, achieved through two penalties, neither requiring VAR. The system was, though, in contentious use in the other match.

Nigeria had held France until VAR picked up Ngozi Ebere's 75th-minute foul on Viviane Asseyi. Ebere departed with a second yellow but Renard put the spot-kick wide.

Nigeria celebrated but VAR ruled 18-year-old keeper Chiamaka Nnadozie had moved off her line and ordered a retake. This time Renard scored and Nigeria were left to wait anxiously to see if they had done enough to qualify as one of the four best third-placed teams.

Spot on....Eugenie Le Sommer of France celebrates her goal against Norway

GROUP B

Germany opened with a leaden 1-0 win against a disappointing but physical China in Rennes, with teenager Giulia Gwinn rescuing the two-time winners. German relief was tempered by playmaker Dzsenifer Marozsan suffering a broken toe.

Debutants South Africa took the lead against Spain through Thembi Kgatlana, and with a quarter of the match left they looked like holding on. However, they then conceded two penalties – one to the new, stricter handball interpretation – and Jennifer Hermoso converted both before a late breakaway goal gave Spain a flattering 3-1 win.

Spain had less fortune against a German side that without Marozsan looked pedestrian but did the job. The determination of Sara Dabritz forced their goal shortly before the break and despite having 63 per cent possession Spain could only muster two shots on target. China were no more impressive in defeating South Africa 1-0.

China were happy to play out a goalless draw with Spain knowing they would be a third-place qualifier. Germany, meanwhile, finally found goalscoring form, beating South Africa 4-0.

Collapse...Scotland (in pink) went 3-0 up against Argentina

Opener... Ajara Nchout of Cameroon scores against New Zealand

GROUP C

Italy had not been to a World Cup since 1999, but signalled their return by beating Australia. Sam Kerr put the Matildas ahead, but Barbara Bonansea levelled then added a 96th-minute winner. Brazil had a pre-tournament scare when Marta suffered a thigh injury but made light of her absence against Jamaica with another veteran, Christiane, scoring a hat-trick.

Marta returned to face Australia and scored a penalty but coach Vadao took her and Formiga off at the interval despite Caitlin Foord pulling a goal back after Christiane had doubled Brazil's lead. Australia went on to dominate the second period and win 3-2.

Kerr scored all four goals against Jamaica as the Aussies took second place, but Marta had the final word, converting a penalty against Italy to become the World Cup's highest overall scorer of either gender, passing the 16 achieved by Germany's Miroslav Klose.

GROUP D

The "Battle of Britain" on the Cote d'Azur proved a relatively quiet affair, though it was no surprise that a stadium on the banks of the River Var should be one of the first to experience VAR controversy.

England's opening goal came after Fran Kirby's shot struck the arm of Scotland's Nicola Docherty and Nikita Parris put home the penalty. Ellen White added a second, while Claire Emslie's consolation made England sweat.

More surprising was the scoreline in Paris, with unfancied Argentina holding 2015 finalists Japan to a goalless draw.

The South Americans' resolve was further demonstrated when it took a Jodie Taylor goal for England to beat them. Japan returned to form, Scotland again rallying too late and losing 2-1, and again conceding a penalty.

With both teams qualified, England beat Japan 2-0 to secure top spot but the drama was in Paris, where Scotland led Argentina 3-0 with 20 minutes left. After conceding twice, Scotland keeper Lee Alexander then saved an injury-time penalty from Maria Bonsegundo, but VAR ruled she had moved off her line. Given a second chance Bonsegundo sent Scotland out.

GROUP E

A below-par Holland were salvaged by Jill Roord's injury-time winner against New Zealand before Canada gained a typically efficient 1-0 win over Cameroon. A 2-0 defeat of the White Ferns then made it 12 unbeaten games and one goal conceded for the Canadians who advanced with a game to spare.

Marta became the World Cup's highest overall scorer of either gender, passing the 16 achieved by Germany's Miroslav Klose

Holland followed suit, beating Cameroon 3-1 as Vivianne Miedema opened her account with a brace.

The Dutch then ended Canada's streak with a 2-1 win in Reims. Consolation came with Christine Sinclair's 182nd goal, drawing her two short of Abby Wambach's world record.

There was less quality but far more tension as Cameroon and New Zealand fought for a third-place qualifying spot. Ajara Nchout appeared to have put the Indomitable Lionesses through before Marie Aurelle Awona sliced a clearance into her own net. Nchout kept a cool head to snatch a 95th-minute winner.

GROUP F

The last group to kick off was the most predictable. After Sweden eased to a 2-0 win over debutants Chile, albeit only with two late goals, the United States laid down a marker by thumping Thailand 13-0, scoring six times in a ruthless last 20 minutes to eclipse Germany's previous competition-high 11-0 victory over Argentina in 2007. Alex Morgan scored five by herself to make an early pitch for the Golden Boot, and equal compatriot Michelle Akers' 1991 record against Chinese Taipei. However, the goal celebrations caused controversy of their own with many feeling they became excessive given the one-sided nature of the match.

Debutants...Noko Matlou of South Africa is crowded out against China

The Americans argued otherwise and pointedly clapped politely when Carli Lloyd opened their account against Chile. Thanks largely to Christine Endler in the Chile goal, the US only scored three this time.

In Nice, Sweden cruised to their expected win, but Thailand not only kept the score down to five they also scored one of their own, Kanjana Sungngoen beating Hedvig Lindahl at her near post to prompt tearful celebrations.

The final match-up with Sweden offered the holders a chance to gain revenge for their Rio Olympics defeat but with Peter Gerhardsson opting to rest half his team the Americans won a hollow victory. Chile became the first and only one of the four debutants to record a win – after 11 consecutive defeats between the quartet – but fell a goal short of being a third-place qualifier. They would have edged out Nigeria had Francisca Lara not smashed an injury-time penalty against the crossbar.

Unstoppable...Sam Kerr of Australia scores third goal against Jamaica

Hosts triumph in Rio

But there is still room for improvement. By Tim Vickery

In Brazilian parlance, 1958 is the year that should never have ended. The economy was booming, the national team won the World Cup and Joao Gilberto launched Bossa Nova. There is little chance that 2019 will live in the memory with such affection, even though Brazil retained their record of winning every Copa America they have hosted. The economy is tanking, and Joao Gilberto died on the eve of the 3-1 win over Peru in the Final. And the Copa America is not the World Cup.

Winning this competition was never anything less than an obligation for the hosts, who were overwhelming favourites in every game they played, including the semi-final against Argentina. A duel with Uruguay or Colombia would have been interesting, but both fell in the quarter-finals to a penalty shoot-out, and at least the eventual finalists, Peru, gave Brazil a harder game than the 5-0 slaughter of the group phase.

Indeed, the outcome was in doubt almost until the end – which appeared unlikely after Brazil took an early lead.

The move began with captain Daniel Alves, chosen after the game as the player of the tournament. Now 36, his attacking versatility from right-back will be hard to replace and it is worth wondering if last year's World Cup campaign would have turned out differently had he not been missing through injury.

He played a fine long ball down the flank to Gabriel Jesus, who shimmied outside the full-back and crossed for left-winger Everton, the break out star of the Copa, to score with a first-time finish. Had Neymar not pulled out injured, Everton's chances would have been limited. Instead, he displaced David Neres to move from the bench to the first team and finished the competition as joint-top scorer, with Peru's centre-forward Paolo Guerrero.

Peru had made a confident start to the Final, and this time they did not collapse upon going behind, drawing level from the penalty spot after hand ball by Thiago Silva. According to the new guidelines the decision should not have been given, but it was upheld even after review – an eloquent symbol of the confusion that is currently afflicting the game in the early stages of the VAR era. Guerrero fired home as Brazil conceded for the first time in this Copa and Peru were level.

But not for long. Brazil hit straight back with a second goal which should have delighted coach Tite, who wants his side to be pro-active, to seek to win the ball back as soon as possible after possession is lost. Roberto Firmino lost the ball with his back to goal, but sprinted back to nick it back. Midfielder Arthur, in fine form in the Final, committed the defence with a surging run and played square to Jesus, who poked a subtle finish into the corner.

The expectation was that Brazil would kill off the game on the counter-attack in the second half. Instead, they found themselves under pressure when Jesus was sent off with more than 20 minutes to go. Peru camped in the Brazil half and left-back Miguel Trauco had a shot from a narrow angle turned round the post by Alisson. Brazil reinforced the defence with Eder Militao coming on at right-back, pushing Daniel Alves into midfield with Phillippe Coutinho giving way.

Peru went for broke, taking off their defensive midfielders, and the title was sealed when Everton cut inside once more, and was barged over by centre-back Carlos Zambrano. It was a clear penalty and sub Richarlison, recovered from a bout of the mumps, shot home to set off some wild celebrations.

It was a wonderful moment for Tite, who had made much of being able to coach the national team in the Maracana in what was Brazil's first appearance there since the Confederations Cup Final six years earlier.

Tite has not had an easy time since last year's World Cup elimination by Belgium. Brazil have not lost another game – the only other defeat in his three-year reign came in a friendly against Argentina when he fielded an experimental side – but the quality of his side's play has not been entirely convincing – and that remains the case

Hero and villain... Brazil's Gabriel Jesus

Mission accomplished ...Brazil lift the Copa

despite the Copa triumph.

Much thought has been given to the balance of the side, with Tite admitting Brazil were too open against Belgium. The midfield is now more defensive and the full-backs are less like auxiliary wingers. The team's defensive record in the Copa serves to highlight the added caution. But there was an 18-month period – the second half of 2016 and all of the following year – when the team showed an exuberance on the ball and a midfield control that has proved elusive ever since.

And centre-forward remains a problem position. The first goal was often a struggle, with the team looking lightweight in attack. There is an urgent need for more penalty-area presence, even if only as an option off the bench.

Winning the Copa, then, comes as a welcome morale boost. But Brazil still do not look ready for what has become the supreme test – the obstacle that has tripped them up in each of the last four World Cups, when they have been knocked out as soon as they came up against a top Western European side.

It is only natural that Brazil are not ready yet. The next World Cup is more than three years away and the qualification campaign does not even get started until March.

This observation is crucial to give context to the 2019 Copa America.

Unlike, say, the Euros, no one has qualified for the competition. It does not represent the end of a process. Rather, it is the start of a new cycle of competitive matches. And in this case, the cycle is affected by the late timing of the 2022 World Cup. This has pushed back the kick-off of the qualifiers and, hosts aside, removed much of the urgency from the 2019 Copa.

> The quality of Brazil's play has not been convincing – and that remains the case despite the Copa triumph

There was still an experimental, undercooked air about the sides, with new coaches finding their feet. Argentina under Lionel Scaloni, for example, came into the competition with the aim of playing the ball quickly into space for the wingers – a plan rendered unworkable by the return of Lionel Messi.

They spent the competition gradually refining, building a circuit of passing through the middle of the field – and it brought them third place, sealed with a fiery 2-1 win over a Chile side who, after trying everything to adapt to the ageing process, must now rebuild.

Uruguay, under Oscar Tabarez, continue to search for ways to make a 4-4-2 system work. In last year's World Cup the masterstroke was to use the dynamic Diego Laxalt to cover the entire left flank from the full-back position. It allowed them to field three in the centre of the pitch and stopped them being outnumbered in this key area. The injury to Laxalt in the second game, then, was a serious blow to their chances.

Paraguay coach Eduardo Berizzo found himself obliged to jettison some of his hopes for a bold, attacking side during the group phase. This flies in the face of Paraguayan history and his players remain more comfortable in deep defence. Colombia look very interesting under Carlos Queiroz, with Juan Cuadrado filling an interesting double role: inside as a midfielder and outside as a winger when James Rodriguez wanders across the line. Queiroz, though, faces a decision over veteran captain Radamel Falcao. His team looked more dangerous when big Duvan Zapata led the line.

The chance to study all of these works in progress made the Copa intriguing from a tactical point of view, but disappointing as a spectacle.

The level of play should be significantly higher in the next Copa – which is just 12 months away.

Switching the competition from odd to even years has opened up the opportunity to slip in another version of the world's oldest continental tournament.

The 2020 Copa will be full of logistical problems – an unwieldy format and a bizarre co-hosting between Argentina and Colombia – but with World Cup qualification up and running, the teams should be far closer to the finished articles than those on show in 2019. WS

Threat...Duvan Zapata of Colombia

Lionel Messi

Argentina captain facing ban for critical comments

When he tries hard to be the team spokesman, Lionel Messi runs the same risk that strikers do when they attempt to tackle. Not being part of his normal skill set, the task can be carried out with more enthusiasm than ability, and errors of judgement can have consequences.

It was thus for Brazil's Gabriel Jesus, who was sent off in the Final of the Copa America – unlucky with his second yellow card, but the bad tackle for his first probably counts as a yellow and a half. And Messi could have overstepped the mark with his comments on the tournament. "The Copa is fixed for Brazil," he said. And he went further, unleashing the dreaded "c" word.

If there is one topic on which CONMEBOL are especially sensitive, it is that of corruption. The FIFA-gate scandal was in essence one of the Americas, with consequences for both the finances and the prestige of the confederation. The authorities, then, will find it hard to turn a blind eye when the leading South American star declares that "we don't have to be part of this corruption".

As Messi's compatriot, Peru coach

Seeing red...Lionel Messi is sent off against Chile

Grounded...Messi scored just once in this year's Copa

Ricardo Gareca commented after the Final, these are serious words that need to be backed up with proof.

Argentina can certainly claim to have been dealt a raw deal with some of the refereeing decisions. Messi's red card against Chile in the third-place play-off was absurd. But this clearly has nothing to do with any scheme to benefit the hosts. Argentina were already out of contention for the title.

And there were the two penalty claims against Brazil – one of which was especially significant because Brazil broke straight up to the other end of the field to score their clinching second goal. Here Argentina may have had a case. Neither time was there any real threat of a goal, and in past years no one would even have noticed. But in the context of a competition in which VAR intervened so often and so awkwardly, there was some justification in the Argentinian dismay.

> Messi has often been seen as an aloof, solitary figure with the national team

Then again, as Gareca pointed out, refereeing decisions can go for and against teams.

In that same game against Brazil, a stronger official may have clamped down much more firmly on tough Argentinian tackling in the early stages.

And Argentina may owe their presence in the knockout stage to a VAR decision. Beaten by Colombia in the opening game, they were a goal down to Paraguay in the second match when to their own surprise they were awarded a penalty.

A shot had been deflected behind, and Messi was preparing to take the corner, when the video referee spotted the use of an arm to block the shot from Lautaro Martinez. Messi was instead handed the chance to equalise from the spot.

It was Messi's only goal of the Copa – a tournament in which his main contribution came in the unaccustomed role of team leader. He has often been seen as an aloof, solitary figure with the national team.

Now, perhaps aware that his team is coming to an end, maybe forced into the role by Javier Mascherano's retirement, Messi was verbal and communicative. He talked on the pitch, spoke for ages to the press after every game – and he has even talked himself into trouble, leaving himself open to a disrepute sanction for his comments at the end.

The 2019 Copa saw Messi at his most South American. And it seems that he fell right into a traditional South American mindset – that of experiencing a sequence of random foul-ups and interpreting them as some sort of giant conspiracy.

Copa at its worst – and its best

Format produces dismal last-eight spectacle but semis restore some improvement

The quarter-finals were the 2019 Copa at its worst, with a number of factors congealing in order to produce a dismal spectacle.

The format of the competition, where just four teams were eliminated in the group phase, make it possible to go through to the knockout stage having done very little. There is also the fact that the quarter-finals go straight to penalties after 90 minutes, which serves as an aid to the spoilers. And then there is the state of the pitches, some of which in this competition were very disappointing. As Lionel Messi commented, "the ball is jumping around like a rabbit" – a further difficulty for those sides trying to force the initiative. Finally, there was pernickety use of VAR, with goals ruled out for the narrowest of offsides.

And so, of the eight quarter-finalists, only one managed to find the target – and even Argentina were far from convincing in their 2-0 win over Venezuela. Deprived by injury and illness of the centre-backs who had performed so well in the goalless draw against Brazil, Venezuela struggled to deal with an early barrage of Argentina corners and fell behind when Sergio Aguero's shot was neatly turned in by Lautaro Martinez.

Decision...VAR rules out a Chile goal v Columbia

Venezuela pressed for much of the rest of the game, but their chance evaporated after an uncharacteristic error from keeper Wuilker Farinez, spilling Aguero's shot and allowing Giovani Lo Celso to score from the rebound.

Argentina's win set up a semi-final against Brazil, who had needed the cheap drama of the penalty shoot-out to get past a typically resilient Paraguay

Out...Uruguay's Luis Suarez (on the ground) after missing his penalty

on a ploughed field of a pitch at Porto Alegre. New Paraguay coach Eduardo Berizzo abandoned any thoughts of a pro-active side and the match turned into attack against defence – especially after Paraguay had centre-back Fabian Balbuena sent off early in the second half. But without a quick goal to help open up space, Brazil once more looked lightweight in attack and for the second time in four games they drew 0-0.

In both 2011 and 2015 Brazil fell to Paraguay on penalties at this stage. On the second occasion the final blow had been struck by Derlis Gonzalez. This time he missed Paraguay's fifth kick. Up stepped Gabriel Jesus – without a tournament goal and having missed a penalty in the previous game. In one of the most important moments of the Copa, he kept his nerve to send Brazil through and boost his own confidence.

If Brazil versus Argentina was a predictable semi-final match-up, the other half of the draw threw up the surprises, with Colombia and Uruguay both knocked out on penalties.

Colombia were eliminated despite not conceding a goal in the competition. Defending champions Chile produced their best display of the competition, first holding the Colombian onslaught and then starting to find some flurries of rhythm. Despite the lack of goals, it was the game of the round, and Chile deservedly won the shoot-out.

Uruguay pummelled Peru for the full 90 minutes, had three goals ruled out for offsides and then saw Luis Suarez have his shoot-out effort saved. No one else missed, and so Peru went through. The Peruvians had only scored in one of their four matches, and had not come remotely close to a goal in their last two, but they found themselves in the last four of the competition.

And then the semi-finals came to the tournament's rescue.

There were reasons to be sceptical about the meeting of Chile and Peru. Both had gone 180 minutes without scoring, and on the poor Porto Alegre pitch there seemed little hope of an entertaining game. Instead, they produced a vibrant encounter. Peru committed men forward and were rewarded for their bold start with a far-post volley from Edison Flores.

Volley...Edison Flores puts Peru ahead against Chile

Falling behind and having to chase the game was Chile's nightmare. Coach Reinaldo Rueda was skilfully marshalling the ageing resources at his disposal, but defending the space behind the attacking full-backs was always likely to be a problem – especially with keeper Gabriel Arias lacking any of predecessor Claudio Bravo's ability with his feet. Chile were caught out down their left and Andre Carrillo set up a memorable second for Yoshimar Yotun.

> The outcome was never in doubt...key to Brazil's win was their speed against Argentina's lack of defensive pace

Chile came back strongly in the second half, and Peru keeper Pedro Gallese produced a string of fine saves to keep them at bay, before Paolo Guerrero added a neat third to round off a memorable night for the Peruvian national team. Over the past few months they had lost at home to Ecuador, Costa Rica and (heavily) to Colombia. They had even lost to El Salvador, prompting coach Ricardo Gareca to muse that he had a team capable of defeating, or being defeated by, any opponent. Their semi-final performance was more reminiscent of the side that pushed France hard in last year's World Cup.

And so Peru, mauled 5-0 by Brazil in the group phase, had fought their way through to another meeting with the hosts, who beat Argentina 2-0 in Belo Horizonte.

It was a bittersweet occasion for the Brazil team. Of course, there was joy at beating their old rivals and at making it through to the Final. But there was also recognition that Argentina could have had two penalties, that the game had been closer than many expected, and the comparison with the 2016 World Cup qualifier between the two teams in the same venue was not flattering.

Back then, Brazil's 3-0 win threatened to turn into a rout. This time, despite an early goal, Brazil never achieved anything like the same control. Even so, the outcome was never in genuine doubt and the key to Brazil's win was their attacking pace against the lack of speed of the Argentinian defenders.

The first goal came when a rampant Dani Alves took out three opponents, cut in and slipped a pass to Roberto Firmino, who had drifted out to the right wing. He squared, and Gabriel Jesus, who had moved into the centre-forward slot, turned past the keeper.

For the second goal Argentina were caught on the break and the Brazil forwards swapped roles. Jesus outpaced both centre-backs, German Pezzella and Nico Otamendi, with embarrassing ease, and squared for Roberto Firmino to do the rest.

In between Argentina had twice hit the woodwork, Lionel Messi shooting against the outside of the post, and sending in a free-kick which Aguero glanced onto the underside of the bar. Rodrigo De Paul wasted a good opportunity and Alisson made a difficult save from a Messi free-kick look easy.

Argentina, then, had their moments. But it is hard to see how their long barren run can end until they can defend with more speed and quality. Messi must be tempted to glance at the likes of Alisson, Marquinhos and Thiago Silva and wish they had been born in Argentina.

Opener...Brazil's Gabriel Jesus celebrates scoring against Argentina

All white on the night for Brazil

Hosts kick off tournament in retro kit to honour original national-team colours

To mark the centenary of the first time they hosted – and won – the Copa America, Brazil kicked off the 2019 tournament in white shirts, the original colour of the national team. And after struggling to break down Bolivia, they took the lead from a penalty awarded for a modern-style VAR assisted handball decision.

It seemed an appropriate way to start a tournament that simultaneously looks backwards and forwards. The past is always present because this is the world's oldest continental competition, the one which led directly to the birth of the World Cup, and CONMEBOL is proud to portray itself as the guardian of tradition. And forward because the Copa begins a new cycle of competitive matches. As far as South America is concerned, the 2022 World Cup gets underway here.

It was clear in the group phase that the field was not made up of battle-hardened teams with consolidated models of play. But the Copa is forgiving – eight of the 12 teams go through to the quarter-finals – and one of the themes of the first round of action was the way contact with competitive reality forced teams to inch towards coherence.

Several of the sides, of course, were under new coaches. But not the hosts, as Tite took charge of Brazil after the last Copa three years ago.

He was clearly reacting to the 2018 World Cup defeat by Belgium, with a more cautious balance to both the work of the midfield and the full-backs. The question in the group phase, though, was breaking down deep defences. It took a while against Bolivia, and the breakthrough never came against Venezuela. In the second match, Brazil may have been unfortunate to have two goals chalked off for offside, but in truth they rarely threatened.

On target...Chile's Erick Pulgar (right) celebrates his goal against Japan

Booed by the home crowd at half-time in the first game and full-time in the second, there was no time for jeers in the third against Peru. Some dreadful defending helped Brazil get off to a flying start, and once space opened up their quick wingers enjoyed themselves. The brightest spark in their group phase was left-winger Everton, a substitute in the first two matches and first choice in the third. He scored two memorable goals in the group phase, cutting inside onto his stronger right foot, but he showed a threat on the outside as well.

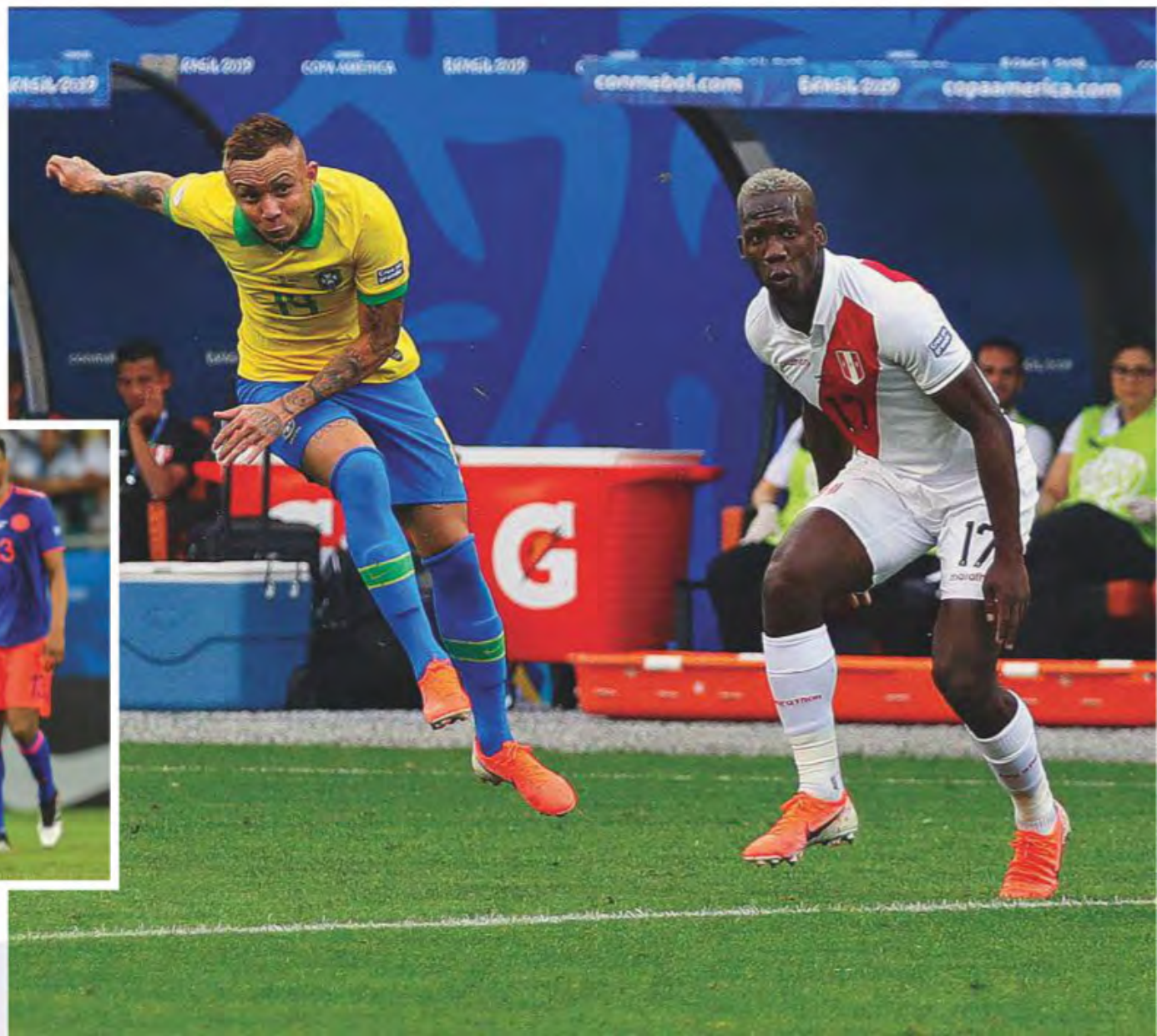
Question marks remain over their play through the middle, where Roberto Firmino's many virtues are not proving easy to knit into the side. There can be a lack of penalty-area presence, with Roberto Firmino dropping into the space of playmaker Phillippe Coutinho.

Peru and Venezuela drew 0-0, and then both enjoyed comfortable wins over a very limited Bolivia. The point gained against Brazil meant that Venezuela finished second. The 5-0 mauling by Brazil gave Peru a few uncomfortable hours waiting for the results from the other groups, but in the history of the 12-team cup no side with four points has ever failed to make the quarter-finals, and in the end the Peruvians were the best third-placed side.

Group B was all about Argentina's flirtation with disaster. Inexperienced caretaker-coach Lionel Scaloni opened up with an idea that was never going to work, as two wingers and rapid transitions into space down the flanks was incompatible with the presence of Lionel Messi.

The result was a chaotic performance against Colombia in which Argentina seemed to have no clue as to what they were supposed to be doing. They were taken apart on the break in the second half, with James Rodriguez setting up a fine solo goal for Roger Martinez and sub Duvan Zapata proving too strong and mobile as he added the second.

Those defensive problems were all too



Winger...Everton scores for Brazil against Peru

Frustrated...Argentina's Lionel Messi

Success...Radamel Falcao of Colombia, the only team to win all three group games

apparent in the second game. Paraguay's Miguel Almiron was faster running with the ball than the defenders were without it when he set up a goal for Richard Sanchez. A VAR penalty brought Argentina level, but it only stayed that way because Derlis Gonzalez had a spot-kick saved by Franco Armani after the Argentinian defence had been exposed once more.

Even so, in the second half of that match there was a hint that Scaloni had found a vague notion of coherence, abandoning his wingers for a team aimed at passing its way through the opposition – and certainly that was the line-up that did enough under pressure in the third game, with Lautaro Martinez and Sergio Aguero seeing off Qatar 2-0.

The Qataris were not disgraced, though. Well coached by Felix Sanchez, they played impressively in two different formations – and in the opening match they passed the ball delightfully through the Paraguayans, forcing rival coach Eduardo Berizzo to change his plans for the subsequent games and adopt a more defensive approach.

Two draws were enough to take Paraguay though to the quarter-finals. The defeat came against Colombia, the only team to win all three group matches. Coach Carlos Queiroz has a solid defence, quick and strong, which did not concede a goal. With Juan Cuadrado filling an interesting double function as a winger dropping inside to make the extra man, Wilmar Barrios anchoring the midfield proficiently, Rodriguez clearly delighted to be back at the scene of his 2014 triumph and big Zapata a real handful up front, Queiroz's team has quickly found an interesting balance.

Group C began with two crushing wins, which were contrasting. Ecuador collapsed against the power and intensity of Uruguay and went down 4-0, and although Japan lost to Chile by the same scoreline, it was highly misleading. Japan's young side were bright, but wasteful in front of goal, and they were punished by two late Chilean strikes.

Japan added some experience to their team and sprung the biggest surprise of the first round, twice leading Uruguay in a 2-2 draw. Chile then beat Ecuador 2-1 in a poor game, before taking on the Uruguayans to define who would win the group.

Chile coach Reinaldo Rueda has proven unable to renew an ageing side, who no longer have the lung power to maintain the high-tempo pressing game that took them to the Copa titles of 2015 and 2016. He unleashed a deep-lying back three, outnumbering the opposition close to goal rather than in the final third as they used to. It kept Uruguay at bay until the final minutes, when Edinson Cavani gained revenge for his red card in the 2015 Copa, heading home the only goal, winning the group for his side and giving Uruguay – on paper – the easier quarter-final.

The winner in the other game would have gone through as a best third-placed team, but Ecuador and Japan eliminated each other with a 1-1 draw. The Japanese could make the long trip home in the knowledge that their young side had shown plenty of flair. Ecuador's shorter journey was marked by disappointment and speculation on the job security of coach Hernan Dario Gomez.

The draw kept Paraguay alive in the competition and they would kick off the quarter-finals, against Brazil.

Brazil were booed by the home crowd at half-time in the first game and full-time in the second

Opener...Brazil's Philippe Coutinho (far right) after scoring the first goal of the tournament

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

Talentscout

UNDER-20 STARS

WORDS: Nick Bidwell

LEE Kang-in

In a sentence
Voted player of the Under-20 World Cup, the South Korea playmaker was the first 18-year-old to win the Golden Ball since Lionel Messi in 2005.

What they say
Valencia assistant coach Chema Sanz: "He is a player of much talent and potential. Apart from his qualities as a footballer, he has tremendous personality, which makes all the difference. He's competitive, ambitious, believes in himself and is not affected by difficult circumstances."

Marcelino, Valencia's coach: "He's intelligent, mature, has clear ideas and is a worker. Everyone of us has their own destiny. He is on the right road."

The story so far
At the age of just six, he was a reality TV star, featuring in the series *Shoot Dori* (Shooting Kid), in which young Korean hopefuls were put through their paces. He gained great exposure from a long stint on the show and four years later came to the attention of a Valencia scout who offered him a trial.

After passing with flying colours he duly moved to Spain with his family and was a standout performer in all age-groups at the club's celebrated Paterna academy. Good enough to make the Valencia B team at 16, he moved up and made his senior debut in 2018, in a Copa del Rey victory over Ebro, and then appeared in his first Liga match in January this year, deployed as a late sub in a 1-1 draw with Real Valladolid.

He made a total of 11 appearances for the first-team last season, with six of them coming as a second-half substitute.

In excellent form for his country at last year's Toulon Tournament, he was the youngest player in South Korea's squad at the World Under-20s but contributed massively to his side's silver medal, scoring two goals and creating four others.

3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT LEE

- Real Madrid have long been admirers, first spotting him when he was turning on the style for Valencia's under-12s.
- He is the youngest non-Spanish debutant in Valencia's history, breaking into the first team at 17 years, 10 months and 24 days.
- His closest friends at Valencia are Russian winger Denis Cheryshev and Spanish midfielder Carlos Soler.

The next step
Valencia coach Marcelino believes the teenager should go out on loan, and newly promoted La Liga sides Osasuna and Granada are among those who are interested, as are Espanyol and Levante. As a Valencia-based club, Levante look to be in pole position. He has a contract with Valencia until 2022 and an €80million release clause.

Strengths
A wonderful left foot, tremendous vision and a great range of pass. He can cause untold damage with his dribbling ability and is a dead-ball specialist.

Weaknesses
By no stretch of the imagination is he pacy, while he also needs to improve physically.

> "He is a player of much talent and potential...and is not affected by difficult circumstances"
>
> **Valencia assistant coach Chema Sanz**

Raoul BELLANOVA

Nicknamed "The Arrow" due to his speed off the mark, the Italy right-back put that quality to excellent use in the world championship. Brave and incisive in support of the attack and quick enough to keep up with the speediest of wingers, he has just signed a four-year contract with French club Bordeaux.

Alexander ALVARADO

After showing up well at the South American Under-20s earlier in the year, the left-winger kept up the good work at the world finals, doing as much as anyone to put Ecuador in the third-place frame. Up until 2014 his preferred position was playmaker. Says his motivation is his eight-month-old son Thiago. Plays for the Aucas club in the capital, Quito.

Ibrahima NIANE

After helping Metz to claim the French second division title, the rangy front man scored three times as Senegal made the quarter-finals of the under-20s bash. Tall, athletic and mobile, he is very quick on the turn and particularly effective when moving wide to work the channels.

Liberato CACACE

The Junior All White left-back of Italian heritage was much to the fore as New Zealand surprisingly reached the last 16 of the competition. Still only 18, his high-energy style, sumptuous technique and sense of adventure were there for all to see, and he has reportedly been scouted by a number of European clubs. He currently plays his club football at home with Wellington Phoenix and insists that he is in no rush to move on. And despite his tender years, he played more minutes last season than any other Phoenix player.

Sekou KOITA

The Austrian-based second striker or right-winger was not available for Mali's opening game, detained by club commitments at Wolfsberger, where he was on loan from Red Bull Salzburg's feeder club, Liefering. Quickly found his feet on arriving at the finals, scoring three goals.

Serhiy BULETSA

To describe him merely as a left-sided midfielder does not begin to cover the influence of the diminutive Dynamo Kiev youth product. No other Ukraine player made a bigger contribution to their triumph in Poland. He scored three goals – including the semi-final winner against Italy – made two assists, and throughout the finals combined dynamism, clever distribution, tricks and defensive work rate. A worthy runner-up in the player of the tournament polling. Due to join Dnipro on loan this season.

Mickael CUISANCE

In a competition in which France generally failed to do themselves justice, the Borussia Monchengladbach central midfielder was one of the rare positive notes. Thoughtful and imaginative on the ball, he was good at locating pockets of space and was full of vim and perseverance.

Kevin MIER

Outstanding keeper who saved the day for Colombia in their round-of-16 penalty shoot-out victory over New Zealand. Calm under pressure, he is only a reserve at the moment for leading Colombian outfit Atletico Nacional, but is tipped to soon make the first-team breakthrough. Played as an attacker as a schoolboy.

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Final...USA (in red) take on Mexico in the Gold Cup

JUNE 14-JULY 9, 2019

Global diary

A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Friday June 14

COPA AMERICA: Hosts Brazil are booed off at half-time by their fans in the tournament's opening game before scoring three second-half goals to beat Bolivia 3-0.
FRANCE: Leonardo, who previously held the role from 2011 to 2013, is appointed Paris Saint-Germain's sporting director for a second time.
ITALY: Zvonimir Boban will leave his position as FIFA deputy secretary-general to become Milan's chief football officer, while former captain Paolo Maldini is confirmed as the club's technical director.

Saturday June 15

COPA AMERICA: A 2-0 victory sees Colombia beat Argentina for the first time in 12 years. Peru have two goals ruled out by VAR while Luis Mago of Venezuela is sent off as the sides draw 0-0.
GOLD CUP: Canada beat Martinique 4-0 in the opening game of the tournament.
UNDER-20 WORLD CUP: Ukraine come from behind to beat South Korea 3-1 in Poland to win the title for the first time.

Sunday June 16

COPA AMERICA: Two-nil down, Qatar draw 2-2 with Paraguay.
EURO UNDER-21s: Poland come from behind to beat Belgium 3-2 in the opening match of the finals.
ITALY: Juventus appoint Maurizio Sarri as coach following his departure from Chelsea.

Monday June 17

COPA AMERICA: Alexis Sanchez scores his first competitive goal for five months as defending champions Chile beat Japan 4-0.
ENGLAND: Freddie Ljungberg becomes Unai Emery's assistant manager at Arsenal.
EURO UNDER-21s: Defending champions Germany begin their campaign with a 3-1 victory over Denmark. Austria beat Serbia 2-0 to record their first-ever victory at the tournament finals.
FIFA: Ex-UEFA president Michel Platini is detained in France as part of an investigation into alleged corruption relating to the awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar and will be questioned tomorrow.
INDONESIA: Bali United become the first Southeast Asian club to list its shares on the stock market.
ITALY: Francesco Totti, who spent his entire professional career with the club and retired from playing in July 2017, resigns as a director of Roma.
MALAWI: Interim coach Meke Mwase signs a permanent deal to lead the national team.

Tuesday June 18

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Holders Kashima Antlers beat J.League rivals Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1-0 in their round-of-16 home leg, while Guangzhou Evergrande beat fellow Chinese side Shandong Luneng 2-1.
COPA AMERICA: Brazil have three goals ruled out and are booed off the pitch for a second successive game as they are held to a 0-0 draw by Venezuela.
CUBA: It is confirmed that midfielder Yasmani Lopez has defected while in the USA for the Gold Cup.
GOLD CUP: On their finals debut, Guyana are beaten 4-0 by the United States.
EURO UNDER-21s: France miss two penalties but score twice in the final minutes to beat England 2-1.

Wednesday June 19

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Ulsan Hyundai beat Urawa Red Diamonds 2-1 in Japan, while fellow South Koreans Jeonbuk Motors draw 1-1 in China with Shanghai SIPG.
COPA AMERICA: Colombia beat Qatar 1-0 and are the first team through to the knockout stage.
EURO UNDER-21s: Poland stun hosts Italy with a 1-0 win.
GOLD CUP: Andres Guardado scores twice in a 3-1 victory over Canada that secures Mexico's place in the quarter-finals.
ITALY: Marco Giampaolo, who left Sampdoria at the end of the season, agrees a two-year deal with the option of a further year to coach Milan, replacing Gennaro Gattuso who quit in May.
SCOTLAND: The Scottish FA completes the purchase of

Round of 16...Sanfrecce Hiroshima's Douglas Vieira tries to escape the attention of Kashima Antlers midfielder Kento Misao

Opening win...Dawid Kownacki of Poland takes on Belgium

Hampden Park from owners Queens Park and will take ownership in August 2020.
SPAIN: Luis Enrique steps down as coach of Spain for "family reasons" and is replaced by his assistant, Robert Moreno.

Thursday June 20

AFCON: Zimbabwe players refuse to train and threaten to boycott Friday's opening game of the tournament, against hosts Egypt, over unpaid wages.
GOLD CUP: Haiti and Costa Rica qualify for the quarter-finals with a game to spare by beating Nicaragua (2-0) and Bermuda (2-1) respectively.
SPAIN: Atletico Madrid complete the signing of Marcos Llorente from Real Madrid for a fee of €40m.

Friday June 21

AFCON: Hosts Egypt open the finals with a 1-0 victory over Zimbabwe.
COPA AMERICA: Chile beat ➤

Through...Haiti (in blue) beat Nicaragua

Island Games

STEVE MENARY

Record...a big crowd watched the Final

Photo credit: Andrew Ormerod

Gold for Ynys Mon

Hosts beat Guernsey in the Final

Ynys Mon's victory in the 2019 Island Games football tournament drew the biggest-ever crowd for a game on the north Wales island, also known as Anglesey. The hosts beat three-times winners Jersey and two Scottish sides, Orkney and the Western Isles, to top their group, then edged out 2005 champions Shetland Isles 2-1 in the semi-finals.

Holyhead's New Stadium was packed for the Final against Guernsey, whose squad included half a dozen players from the Guernsey FC side that plays in the English Isthmian League.

Guernsey right-back Keanu Marsh scored after just five minutes in the Final, but a red card 10 minutes later for team-mate Frank Tobin unsettled the visitors.

Liam Fox levelled in the second half and, with seven minutes left, Mel McGinness scored the winner to send a crowd of nearly 3,500 delirious.

"We believe it may be the biggest crowd ever on Anglesey," says project organiser Gareth Parry.

"The tournament went better than I could have ever imagined."

Ynys Mon had never won gold and the last of their four silver medals was 18 years ago, but a total of more than 14,000 people attended the 30 games in the tournament, which included a women's event that saw Isle of Man deny the hosts a double with a 2-1 victory in the Final.

"It's been mad since the Final," says Mel McGinness, the scorer of the winning goal in the men's tournament. "Everywhere I go people are coming up to me and congratulating us. Before this year not many people on Ynys Mon even knew about this event.

"I went to Rhodes in 2007, Aland in 2009 and the Isle of Wite in 2011 and never saw anywhere near the amount of fans at the games at those venues. Scoring the winner and seeing what it meant to the whole island was up there with the best feelings I have ever had."

The biennial multisport Island Games has featured football since 1989 and the tournament is a major outlet for isolated teams. Faroe Islands and Gibraltar both won gold before joining FIFA, while Bermuda hosted and won in 2013.

Ynys Mon's success was just reward as football was dropped from this year's main Games in Gibraltar, who said they lacked sufficient pitches. So Ynys Mon agreed to stage a separate football tournament, but not all IGA members could afford to send separate teams to both Gibraltar and north Wales. Greenland – runners-up in two of the last three tournaments – and 2011 winners Isle of Wight were absent, but 10 teams took part in the men's event.

Most were from the British Isles but Norwegian island Hitra finished sixth, while there was an international debut for St Helena. An isolated British overseas territory in the South Atlantic, St Helena had to raise £74,000 to get to Wales and only secured the last £10,000 a few months before kick-off.

Buoyed by the tournament, Ynys Mon now want to host the overall Island Games as football's strength outside FIFA continues to grow. WS

➤ Ecuador 2-1 and advance to the next round.
ENGLAND: Ex-Chelsea keeper Petr Cech, who retired aged 37 at the end of the season, returned to his former club as technical and performance advisor.

Saturday June 22

AFCON: Madagascar earn a first-ever finals point with a 2-2 draw against Guinea, while fellow debutants Burundi lose 1-0 to Nigeria. Uganda stun DR Congo with a 2-0 win.
COPA AMERICA: Dani Alves scores in Brazil's 5-0 win against Peru, after which he confirms he will be leaving Paris Saint-Germain this summer.
EURO UNDER-21s: Spain beat Poland 5-0 to top their group on goal difference, progress to the semi-finals and claim a place at the 2020 Olympics.
GOLD CUP: The United States beat Trinidad & Tobago 6-0 to qualify for the knockout stage, as do Panama with a 4-2 victory over Guyana.

Sunday June 23

AFCON: Senegal, Algeria and Morocco kick off their campaigns with wins.
EURO U21s: Silver medallists at the men's Olympic tournament in 2016, Germany draw 1-1 with Austria to secure a place at the 2020 Games and the Euro semi-finals.
GOLD CUP: Lucas Cavallini and Jonathan David become the first team-mates to both score a hat-trick in the same game at the finals as Canada beat Cuba 7-0 to reach the quarter-finals, where they are joined by Mexico.
SPAIN: Real Mallorca overturn a 2-0 first-leg deficit, beating Deportivo La Coruna 3-0 in the Segunda Division play-off Final to claim a place in La Liga.

Monday June 24

AFCON: Tunisia become the first top seeds not to win their opening game as they draw 1-1 with Angola. Hacen El Ide scores Mauritania's first-ever finals' goal as they lose 4-1 to Mali.
ENGLAND: Newcastle United announce manager Rafael Benitez will leave the club when his contract expires on June 30.
EURO UNDER-21s: A goalless draw sees France and Romania both go through to the semi-finals.
GOLD CUP: Bermuda record a first-ever victory at the finals, beating Nicaragua 2-0.
ITALY: Milan president Paolo ➤

Under-20 World Cup

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

Ukraine celebrate their first world title

Tournament success for Poland's neighbours

Having trailed to Lee Kang-in's fifth-minute penalty in Lodz Stadium, Ukraine came back to beat South Korea 3-1 in the Under-20 World Cup Final and leave coach Oleksandr Petrakov beaming: "I am the happiest person in the world.

"I am 61 and I worked for this success all my life. I don't think we need to add anything."

After the player of the tournament had beaten the competition's best keeper, Andriy Lunin, from the spot, Korea dominated the early stages of the Final before the Ukrainians rallied with two goals from Vladyslav Supriaha and a last-minute clincher from Heorhiy Tsitaishvili to take the trophy back across the border from Poland.

"It feels incredible to lift the trophy," said Lunin. "Our country has won the title for the very first time and we've made history. The key was the coach. I'm very thankful to him for the confidence he's had in me."

Although Portugal would beat eventual finalists South Korea 1-0 in their opening game, they failed to qualify after losing to Argentina and then drawing with South Africa. Meanwhile, hosts Poland, who had been awarded the finals as part of their FA's centenary celebrations, made the knockout stage despite coach Jacek Magiera only having his players for three training sessions before the tournament due to the very late finish of the Polish league. After going out 1-0 to Italy, Poland midfielder Tomasz Makowski complained: "Of course, I would have preferred two weeks in a training camp with testing games, if possible. That could have given us much more."

> "I am the happiest person in the world. I am 61 and I worked for this success all my life"
> Oleksandr Petrakov

Out...Mali's Sambou Sissoko scores against Argentina

The star of the group stage was Norway's Erling Haaland, who scored nine goals in a tournament-record 12-0 thrashing of Honduras. He finished as the finals' top scorer despite not finding the net in any other game and failing to make the knockout phase.

Unfortunately, his achievement was spoiled by match-fixing allegations as Norwegian TV pundit Jesper Mathisen claimed on Twitter: "An unnamed FIFA official in New Zealand, who wished to remain anonymous due to pending investigations, confirmed after the match that the Honduran team is being investigated and the next steps will be taken in regards to possible sanctions".

Another underdog, Tahiti, will remember Poland

Comeback...Vladyslav Supriaha scores Ukraine's first goal in the Final

much more fondly, despite losing all three of their games and conceding 14 goals without scoring. After their 5-0 loss to Poland, the local fans gave them a fantastic send-off, chanting "Tahiti, Tahiti", and reserve keeper Tevaearai Tamatai left the pitch with a Poland scarf, given to him by a supporter, over his head.

Six-time winners Argentina failed to get past the last 16, going out on penalties to Mali, while many people's favourites France exited at the same stage, losing 3-2 to the USA.

Although outsiders at the start, Ukraine had demonstrated their desire and determination by seeing off Italy in the semi-finals despite having Denys Popov sent off. Leading through a second-half goal from Serhiy Buletsa, the young Ukrainians stood firm against intense *Azzurrini* pressure to go through and even survived a VAR-annulled goal in the second minute of injury time.

For winning coach Petrakov the secret to his side's success was simple. "There are no stars in this team," he admits. "The star is the team. I have been working with these boys for five years and I am proud. It will be very tough to say goodbye to them." WS

➤ Scaroni and Internazionale chief executive Alessandro Antonello confirm the San Siro is to be demolished and replaced with a new ground next door.

Tuesday June 25

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Zhong Yihao scores the winning spot-kick as Guangzhou Evergrande beat Shandong Luneng on penalties and they are joined in the quarter-finals by Kashima Antlers, who go through on away goals against Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

AFCON: Cameroon striker Joel Tagueu returns to his club side Cruzeiro in Brazil after a cardiac anomaly is detected ahead of his country's first game, in which the holders beat Guinea-Bissau 2-0.

ENGLAND: Ex chief superintendent David Duckenfield is to face a retrial, in October, over the deaths of 95 football fans at Hillsborough in 1989.

GOLD CUP: Honduras' 4-0 victory over El Salvador means Curacao progress to the knockout stage for the first time, along with Jamaica.

ITALY: Luigi Di Biagio resigns as coach of Italy's under-21s after their failure to qualify for the semi-finals of the European Championship.

Wednesday June 26

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Urawa Red Diamonds overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit and beat Ulsan Hyundai 3-0 to advance to the quarter-finals, along with Shanghai SIPG, who triumph over Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors on penalties.

AFCON: Amr Warda is dismissed from Egypt's squad for disciplinary reasons ahead of a 2-0 victory over DR Congo which puts the hosts through to the knockout stage. Nigeria also reach the next phase, beating Guinea 1-0.

MALAYSIA: Johor Darul Ta'zim secure a sixth consecutive Malaysian Super League title with a 2-1 victory over Melaka United.

MEXICO: Former Mexico youth striker Joao Maleck, who joined Spanish side Sevilla Atletico on loan from Santos Laguna in January with an option to buy, will be detained in his homeland for an initial six months following a car accident that left two people dead and in which alcohol was found in the 20-year-old's bloodstream.

SCOTLAND: After failing to turn up for the first day of pre-season training on Monday amid reports of a dispute with chairman Gordon Scott, St Mirren confirm that manager Oran Kearney has left ➤

Euro Under-21s

KEIR RADNEDGE

Champions...Spain

Spain turn tables on Germany

La Rojita triumph in Italy

Europe's under-21 joust has seemingly become a closed shop. Spain beat Germany 2-1 to win this year's crown in a reversal of the 2017 Final, and there is no obvious reason why these two will not be contesting the continent's age-group crown once again in Slovenia in two years time.

Spain's triumph, at a finals staged in Italy and San Marino, puts them level with Italy on five titles apiece and was ultimately well deserved, despite a poor start to the tournament.

La Rojita were well beaten in their opening game, going down 3-1 in Bologna to hosts Italy, for whom Federico Chiesa scored twice. However, with only the top team in each of the three groups, plus the best second-placed team, going through to the semi-finals, Luigi Di Biagio's *Azzurrini* then shot themselves in the foot by somehow losing 1-0 to an attack-shy Poland.

As Italy faltered, Spain began to pick up the pace, beating Belgium 2-1 and then thrashing Poland 5-0. With Italy, Spain and Poland all finishing on six points, Spain topped Group A by virtue of a better goal difference in head-to-head games between the trio.

Italy's failure to reach the final four also meant they missed out on a ticket to next year's Tokyo Olympics – an outcome that cost Di Biagio his job.

Group B was far more straightforward, with Germany's opening 3-1 win over Denmark proving decisive. Luca Waldschmidt, Freiburg's lanky and unorthodox centre-forward, opened his account in that game and, helped by a hat-trick in a 6-1 thumping of Serbia and Germany's only goal in a draw with Austria, he would end up as the tournament's leading marksman, equalling Marcus Berg's record seven-goal haul for Sweden in 2009.

Like Italy and Poland, Denmark also missed out on the semi-finals despite finishing on six points – due to a mutually beneficial goalless draw between Romania and France in Group C.

In theory, England and France were the favourites in the third group – with Romania and Croatia notionally making up the numbers – and the two heavyweights opened the competition against each other in Cesena. Aidy Boothroyd's side got off to a good start thanks to an exquisite solo goal from Phil Foden. But in a finale reminiscent of the seniors' Euro 2004 collapse, France snatched two goals in the closing minutes, the equaliser being an own goal by Aaron Wan-Bissaka in the fifth minute of injury time.

After the game Boothroyd suggested that talk of a multimillion move to Manchester United had proved too much of a distraction for Wan-Bissaka – pity he did not spot that in training – and the England

Daddy's boy...Ianis Hagi

> Boothroyd said talk of a move was a distraction for Wan-Bissaka – pity he did not spot that in training

Shock...defeat by Poland cost hosts Italy a semi-final spot

manager offered his critics more fuel for their fire by omitting Foden from the starting line-up against Romania in order to save him for a "later" game which never came.

By the time Foden did appear in the second half, it was all too late as Romania, inspired in midfield by Iasi – son of Gheorghe – Hagi, won 4-2 with two late goals from substitute Florinel Coman. Out after only two matches, England's defence went on to commit a further litany of silly mistakes in a 3-3 draw against Croatia in San Marino – at the same time as Romania and France were playing out their 0-0 draw to both finish on seven points, much to the anger of Italy, Poland and Denmark.

In the semi-finals, Germany benefited from an extra day's recuperation ahead of their meeting with Romania, although it was not until the last few minutes that Waldschmidt and Nadiem Amiri wrapped the game up 4-2 in temperatures that reached 100 degrees.

It was a similar story in the second semi-final, in which France snatched an early lead thanks to Jean-Philippe Mateta's penalty but then keeled over and lost 4-1 to Spain, who had enjoyed two more days of rest.

Spain's greater skill was to duly carry them to victory in the Final as Waldschmidt failed to find the net for the first time, although when he was felled in the first half by Jesus Vallejo, Spain were fortunate that their captain was only shown a yellow card by Serb referee Srdan Jovanovic.

Fabian Ruiz of Napoli and Dinamo Zagreb's Dani Olmo put Spain 2-0 up with 20 minutes to play, before Waldschmidt jabbed wide from close range and Amiri got a late consolation goal.

With a wealth of young talent from which to chose, plus a game plan which works, Spain coach De la Fuente could afford to muse about the Tokyo Olympics and can probably pick his starting line-up now, with most of his under-21 champions having been under-19 winners for him in 2015. WS

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

BEST PLAYER
Fabian Ruiz (Spain)

TOP SCORER
Luca Waldschmidt (Germany) 7 goals

OFFICIAL TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT
Alexander Nubel (Germany); **Lukas Klostermann** (Germany), **Jonathan Tah** (Germany), **Jesus Vallejo** (Spain), **Benjamin Henrichs** (Germany); **Fabian Ruiz** (Spain), **Luca Waldschmidt** (Germany), **Mahmoud Dahoud** (Germany); **Dani Olmo** (Spain), **George Puscas** (Romania), **Dani Ceballos** (Spain)

➤ the club by mutual consent.

Thursday June 27

AFCON: Algeria book their place in the round of 16 with a 1-0 win over Senegal, Madagascar get their first win at a major tournament with a 1-0 victory over fellow debutants Burundi and Kenya beat Tanzania 3-2 after trailing at half-time.
COPA AMERICA: Gabriel Jesus scores the decisive spot-kick as Brazil beat Paraguay on penalties after a goalless draw to reach the semi-finals.
EUROPA LEAGUE: Cardiff Met lose 1-0 in Luxembourg to Progres Niederkorn on their Euro debut.
EURO UNDER-21s: Spain beat France 4-1 to reach the Final, where they will meet Germany, who beat Romania 4-2.

Friday June 28

AFCON: Egypt recall Amr Warda to their squad, two days after the midfielder was sent home for disciplinary reasons. Morocco beat Ivory Coast 1-0 to reach the last 16.
COPA AMERICA: Alexis Sanchez scores the decisive spot-kick as Chile beat Colombia on penalties following a goalless draw. They are joined in the semi-finals by Argentina, who overcome Venezuela 2-0.
ENGLAND: Martin O'Neill is sacked by Nottingham Forest, five days after assistant Roy Keane left the club, with Sabri Lamouchi taking over as manager. Manchester United sign right-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka from Crystal Palace for an initial £45m.
ITALY: Milan make a deal to serve a one-year ban from European football over breaches of Financial Fairplay rules, which means Torino will now play in the Europa League.
MACAU: Chao Pak Kei beat Tak Chun Ka I 4-0 to win the Liga de Elite for the first time.
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Kosovo's Feronikeli beat FC Santa Coloma of Andorra 2-1 in the preliminary round Final.

Saturday June 29

AFCON: Mauritania v Angola, Cameroon v Ghana and Benin v Guinea-Bissau all finish 0-0.
COPA AMERICA: Luis Suarez misses in the penalty shoot-out as Uruguay lose to Peru after their quarter-final finishes goalless.
GOLD CUP: Guillermo Ochoa saves Keysher Fuller's spot-kick as Mexico beat Costa Rica on penalties following a 1-1 draw. In the other quarter-final, Haiti come from two goals down to beat Canada 3-2.
USA: Minnesota United set a club record by beating Cincinnati 7-1.
WORLD CUP: Sri Lanka advance to the next qualifying round after FIFA expel Macau for refusing to travel to the south Asian island due to security concerns over recent terror attacks.

Sunday June 30

AFCON: Madagascar shock Nigeria 2-0 to qualify for the knockout stage, as do Uganda despite losing 2-0 to Egypt. Guinea beat Burundi 2-0 and go through as one of the best third-place finishers.
EURO UNDER-21s: Spain are crowned champions for a fifth time, beating Germany 2-1.
GOLD CUP: The USA will face Jamaica in the semi-finals after they both have 1-0 wins, against Curacao and Panama respectively.
VENEZUELA: After two goalless games, Estudiantes de Merida beat Mineros on penalties to win the Apertura Final.

Monday July 1

AFCON: Ivory Coast go through to the last 16 with a 4-1 victory over Namibia, as do Senegal who beat Kenya 3-0. The latter result assures DR Congo of a place in the next phase as one of the best third-placed teams.

Tuesday July 2

AFCON: A 0-0 draw is enough for Cameroon and Benin to progress to the knockout stage, along with Tunisia who beat Angola 1-0.
CHINA: Former Newcastle United boss Rafael Benitez is named coach of Dalian Yifang.
COPA AMERICA: Argentina's 26-year wait for major silverware continues as they lose 2-0 to Brazil in the semi-finals.
ENGLAND: Tottenham Hotspur sign Tanguy Ndombele from Lyon for a club record £53.8m.
GOLD CUP: Raul Jimenez's extra-time penalty sees Mexico beat Haiti 1-0 in the semi-finals.
SCOTLAND: US businessman Ron Gordon concludes a takeover of Premiership side Hibernian.

Wednesday July 3

COPA AMERICA: Peru end Chile's hopes of a third consecutive Copa America title with a 3-0 victory in their semi-final.
GOLD CUP: Play is stopped for an hour and a half due to lightning as the USA go on to beat Jamaica 3-1 and reach the Final.
ITALY: Paolo Nicolato is named ➤

➤ coach of Italy's under-21 team following his good work with the under-19 and under-20 sides.
SPAIN: Atletico Madrid sign Joao Felix from Benfica for €126m and sell Rodri to Manchester City, who pay a club-record fee of €70m.

Thursday July 4

ENGLAND: Chelsea appoint their former midfielder Frank Lampard as manager on a three-year deal.
EUROPA LEAGUE: Northern Irish side Ballymena United beat NSI Runavik of the Faroe Islands 2-0 on aggregate and progress to the next round of a European competition for the first time at the eighth attempt.
ITALY: Now 41, goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon returns to his former club Juventus after being released by Paris Saint-Germain.

Friday July 5

AFCON: Benin cause a major surprise by beating Morocco on penalties to book a place in the quarter-finals, where they will face Senegal, who overcome Uganda.

Saturday July 6

AFCON: Holders Cameroon and hosts Egypt go out to Nigeria and South Africa respectively.
COPA AMERICA: Lionel Messi is sent off, along with Chile's Gary Medel, as Argentina win the third-place play-off 2-1.
RUSSIA: Lokomotiv Moscow beat Zenit 3-2 in the Super Cup with two late goals in the space of three minutes from Alexei Miranchuk.

Sunday July 7

AFCON: Debutants Madagascar beat DR Congo on penalties after a 2-2 draw to reach the quarter-finals, where they join Algeria, who beat Guinea 3-0.
COPA AMERICA: Gabriel Jesus scores one, sets up another, is sent off and then pushes over the VAR monitor as Brazil win their first Copa America title in 12 years by beating Peru 3-1.
EGYPT: Coach Javier Aguirre is sacked and president Hany Abo Rida resigns as a "moral obligation" following the previous day's shock Africa Cup of Nations exit.
GOLD CUP: Jonathan Dos Santos scores the only goal of the game as Mexico beat the USA to win the tournament for an eighth time.
SPAIN: Atletico Madrid agree to sign Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata for €65m on a permanent basis

CONCACAF Gold Cup

PAUL GARDNER

Mexico triumph on American soil

Confederation's big two dominate as usual

With Mexico and the USA having won 14 of the previous 15 Gold Cups between them, it was no surprise that CONCACAF's big two contested the Final of this year's confederation's bi-annual championship. There were, however, some shocks early on in a tournament that was primarily staged in the United States, with Costa Rica and Jamaica each staging a double-header in the group phase.

The decision of the region''s Canadian president Victor Montagliani to expand the finals from 12 to 16 teams meant the appearance of Martinique, Curacao, Bermuda and Guyana – the last two making their debut – at the 2019 edition. And Curacao caused an early upset by finishing second behind Jamaica in Group C and consigning seeded Honduras to last place and elimination.

Group B seeds Costa Rica also failed to top their section but at least they made the quarter-finals after finishing behind Haiti. Elsewhere, all went according to plan, with Mexico and the US winning all three of their games and coasting into the last eight, along with their respective runners-up Canada and Panama.

It wasn't quite as straightforward for the big two in the quarters, though, with Mexico needing penalties to get past Costa Rica and the United States playing poorly before eking out an unconvincing 1-0 win against Curacao.

Haiti came from 2-0 down to beat Canada 3-2 and Jamaica overcame Panama 1-0 in a tedious game thanks to a penalty awarded for a dubious hand ball. And with no VAR at the tournament there was no review of the decision.

In their semi-final against Jamaica, the US took an early lead through Weston McKennie before the game was held up for nearly 90 minutes by an electrical storm. When play resumed, Christian Pulisic scored twice to cement a resounding 3-1 victory.

Another uninspired performance saw Mexico taken to extra time by Haiti before Raul Jimenez settled matters from the penalty spot.

> **'This was what we came here for'**
> Final winner Andres Guardado of Mexico

Before 62,500 fans in Chicago, the USA began the Final at a blistering pace and came close to scoring on two occasions. Mexico survived the onslaught, calmed things down, and in the second half were comfortably in control.

And *El Tri*'s dominance was rewarded after 73 minutes when Jimenez, on the edge of the USA penalty area, played a short backheel to set up Jonathan Dos Santos, who fired into the top corner to settle matters and make Mexico the Gold Cup winners for an eighth time.

"This was what we came here for," said Mexican midfielder Andres Guardado.

"We did it and in an unforgettable setting. We're very happy. The whole team was spectacular." WS

Victorious...Mexico triumph once again

after his 18-month loan expires at the end of the season.
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: USA beat Holland 2-0 to claim a record fourth world title.

Monday July 8

AFCON: Tunisia beat Ghana on penalties to advance to the last eight, along with Ivory Coast who beat Mali 1-0.
ENGLAND: Leicester City sign Youri Tielemans, who spent the second half of last season on loan from Monaco, for a club record £40m.
FRANCE: Neymar fails to turn up for Paris Saint-Germain's first day of pre-season training and the club say they will take "appropriate action".
TANZANIA: Former Nigeria winger Emmanuel Amuneke leaves his position as national coach after Tanzania failed to progress to the knockout stages of the Africa Cup of Nations, finishing bottom of their group with three defeats.

Super Cup...Lokomotiv Moscow's Fyodor Smolov (left) and Rifat Zhemaletdinov

Tuesday July 9

ENGLAND: Ex-Arsenal midfielder Edu, who won two league titles with the club, is appointed their first technical director after leaving his role as general co-ordinator of Brazil. WS

Internationals

COPA AMERICA

Played in Brazil;
Japan and Qatar were guest teams

Group A

Jun14 - Sao Paulo
Brazil 3 (Philippe Coutinho pen 50, 53, Everton 85)
Bolivia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,260. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Thiago Silva, Filipe Luis, Fernandinho, Casemiro, Richarlison (Willian 84), Philippe Coutinho, David Neres (Everton 81), Roberto Firmino (Gabriel Jesus 65).
Bolivia: Lampe - D Bejarano, Haquin, Jusino, M Bejarano, Saavedra (L Vaca 64), Justiniano, Saucedo (Wayar 59), Chumacero, Castro (R Vaca 75), Martins Moreno.

Jun15 - Porto Alegre
Venezuela 0
Peru 0
Att: 13,370. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Venezuela: Farinez - Rosales, Chancellor, Villanueva, Mago, Moreno (Hernandez 78), Savarino (Machis 69), Herrera, Rincon, Murillo (Soteldo 84), Rondon. *Sent off: Mago 75.*
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Abram, Trauco, Tapia, Farfan, Gonzales (Carrillo 88), Yotun (Polo 67), Cueva (Flores 46), Guerrero.

Jun18 - Rio deJaneiro
Bolivia 1 (Martins Moreno pen 28)
Peru 3 (Guerrero 45, Farfan 55, Flores 90+6)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 26,346. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)
Bolivia: Lampe - D Bejarano, Haquin, Jusino, M Bejarano, Saavedra (L Vaca 73), Justiniano, Saucedo (Fernandez 71), Chumacero, Castro (Alvarez 80), Martins Moreno.
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano (Araujo 85), Abram, Trauco, Tapia, Yotun, Polo, Farfan, Cueva (Flores 79), Guerrero (Gonzales 90+3).

Jun18 - Salvador
Brazil 0
Venezuela 0
Att: 42,587. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Thiago Silva, Filipe Luis, Arthur, Casemiro (Fernandinho 57), Richarlison (Gabriel Jesus 46), Philippe Coutinho, David Neres (Everton 72), Roberto Firmino.
Venezuela: Farinez - Rosales, Osorio, Villanueva, Hernandez, Moreno, Murillo, Herrera (Soteldo 66), Rincon, Machis (Figuera 76), Rondon (Martinez 85).

Jun 22 - Sao Paulo
Peru 0
Brazil 5 (Casemiro 12, Roberto Firmino 19, Everton 32, Daniel Alves 53, Willian 90)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 42,317. **Ref:** Rapallini (Arg)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Araujo, Abram, Trauco, Tapia, Yotun (Flores 46), Polo, Farfan, Cueva (Ballon 66), Guerrero (Gonzales 54).
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Thiago Silva, Filipe Luis (Alex Sandro 56), Arthur, Casemiro (Allan 69), Gabriel Jesus, Philippe Coutinho (Willian 76), Everton, Roberto Firmino.

Jun 22 - Belo Horizonte
Bolivia 1 (Justiniano 82)
Venezuela 3 (Machis 2, 55, Martinez 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,091. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)
Bolivia: Lampe - D Bejarano, Haquin, Jusino, M Bejarano (Fernandez 71), Justiniano, Saucedo, L Vaca (Castro 34), R Vaca, Arano, Martins Moreno (Alvarez 77).
Venezuela: Farinez - Hernandez, Chancellor, Mago, Rosales, Moreno, Savarino, Anor (Soteldo 58), Rincon, Machis (Martinez 72), Rondon (Murillo 85).

COPA AMERICA – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil (Q)	3	2	1	0	8	0	7
Venezuela (Q)	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Peru (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Group B

Jun15 - Salvador
Argentina 0
Colombia 2 (Martinez 71, D Zapata 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,572. **Ref:** Tobar (Chl)
Argentina: Armani - Saravia, Pezzella, Otamendi, Tagliafico, Lo Celso, Rodriguez (Pizarro 67), Paredes, Di Maria (De Paul 46), Messi, Aguero (Suarez 79).
Colombia: Ospina - Medina, Mina, D Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado (Lerma 64), Barrios, Uribe, Rodriguez, Falcao (D Zapata 81), Muriel (Martinez 14).

Jun16 - Rio deJaneiro
Paraguay 2 (Cardozo pen 4, D Gonzalez 56)
Qatar 2 (Almoez Ali 68, R Rojas og 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,196. **Ref:** Haro (Per)
Paraguay: Fernandez - B Valdez, Balbuena, Alonso, Arzamendia, C Ortiz, R Rojas (Sanchez 79), Perez (D Gonzalez 46), Almiron, Dominguez (Iturbe 83), Cardozo.
Qatar: Al Sheeb - Pedro Miguel, Al Rawi, Salman, A Hassan, Al Haidos, Madibo, Khoukhi, Akram Afif, Hatem (Boudiaf 88), Almoez Ali.

Jun19 - Sao Paulo
Colombia 1 (D Zapata 86)
Qatar 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,079. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)
Colombia: Ospina - Medina (Arias 46), Mina, D Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado (Falcao 64), Barrios, Uribe, Martinez (Diaz 75), D Zapata, Rodriguez.
Qatar: Al Sheeb - Pedro Miguel, Al Rawi, Salman, A Hassan, Al Haidos (Moein 84), Madibo, Khoukhi, Hatem (Boudiaf 66), Akram Afif, Almoez Ali.

Jun19 - Belo Horizonte
Argentina 1 (Messi pen 57)
Paraguay 1 (Sanchez 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,265. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)
Argentina: Armani - Casco, Pezzella, Otamendi, Tagliafico, Pereyra (Aguero 46), Paredes, Lo Celso, De Paul (Suarez 87), Messi, Lautaro Martinez (Di Maria 67).
Paraguay: Fernandez - I Piris, Gomez, Alonso, Arzamendia, D Gonzalez (Escobar 90), Sanchez, R Rojas, M Rojas, Almiron (C Ortiz 87), Santander (O Romero 72).

Jun 23 - Porto Alegre
Qatar 0
Argentina 2 (Lautaro Martinez 4, Aguero 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 41,390. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
Qatar: Al Sheeb - Pedro Miguel (Ismail 85), Al Rawi, Khoukhi, Al Hajri (Al Ahrak 77), Salman, Al Haidos, Boudiaf, Hatem, Almoez Ali, Akram Afif.
Argentina: Armani - Saravia, Foyth (Pezzella 85), Otamendi, Tagliafico, De Paul, Paredes, Lo Celso (Acuna 55), Messi, Lautaro Martinez (Dybala 76), Aguero.

Jun 23 - Salvador
Colombia 1 (Cuellar 31)
Paraguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,903. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Colombia: Montero - Arias, C Zapata, Lucumi, C Borja, Lerma, Cuellar, Cardona (Barrios 85), Cuadrado (Rodriguez 58), Falcao (D Zapata 66), Diaz.
Paraguay: Fernandez - I Piris, Gomez, Alonso, Arzamendia, D Gonzalez (O Romero 82), Sanchez, R Rojas (Iturbe 63), M Rojas (Dominguez 46), Almiron, Cardozo.

COPA AMERICA – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia (Q)	3	3	0	0	4	0	9
Argentina (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Paraguay (Q)	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Qatar	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Group C

Jun16 - Belo Horizonte
Uruguay 4 (Lodeiro 6, Cavani 33, L Suarez 44, Mina og 78)
Ecuador 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 13,611. **Ref:** Daronco (Bra)
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres, Gimenez, Godin, Laxalt, Nandez (Pereiro 64), Vecino (Valverde 81), Bentancur, Lodeiro (Torreira 75), L Suarez, Cavani.
Ecuador: Dominguez - Quintero, Mina, Achilier, Caicedo, Intriago, Orejuela, A Valencia, Mena (Velasco 29), Ayrton Preciado (Romario Ibarra 46), E Valencia. *Sent off: Quintero 24.*

Jun17 - Sao Paulo
Japan 0
Chile 4 (Pulgar 41, Vargas 54, 83, Sanchez 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,253. **Ref:** Diaz de Vivar (Par)
Japan: K Osako - Tomiyasu, Nakayama, N Ueda, Kubo, Shibasaki, Hara, Sugioka, Maeda (Miyoshi 66), A Ueda (Okazaki 79), Nakajima (Abe 66).
Chile: Arias - Isla, Medel, Maripan, Beausejour, Aranguiz, Pulgar, Vidal (Hernandez 78), Fuenzalida (Opazo 80), Vargas, Sanchez (Fernandes 87).

Jun 20 - Porto Alegre
Uruguay 2 (L Suarez pen 32, Gimenez 66)
Japan 2 (Miyoshi 25, 59)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 39,733. **Ref:** Rojas (Col)
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres, Gimenez, Godin, Laxalt (Gonzalez 28), Nandez (De Arrascaeta 60), Torreira, Bentancur, Lodeiro (Valverde 73), L Suarez, Cavani.
Japan: Kawashima - Iwata (Tatsuta 87), Itakura, N Ueda, Tomiyasu, Sugioka, Miyoshi (Kubo 83), Shibasaki, Nakajima, Okazaki, Abe (A Ueda 67).

Jun 21 - Salvador
Ecuador 1 (E Valencia pen 26)
Chile 2 (Fuenzalida 8, Sanchez 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 14,727. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Velasco, Achilier, Arboleda, Ramirez, Gruezo, Mena (Ayrton Preciado 82), Orejuela, Mendez (A Valencia 60), Romario Ibarra (Garces 69), E Valencia. *Sent off: Achilier 89.*
Chile: Arias - Isla, Medel, Maripan, Beausejour, Aranguiz, Pulgar, Vidal (Jara 90+2), Fuenzalida (Diaz 70), Vargas (Hernandez 86), Sanchez.

Jun 24 - Rio deJaneiro
Chile 0
Uruguay 1 (Cavani 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 57,442. **Ref:** Claus (Bra)
Chile: Arias - Medel (Lichnovsky 55), Jara (Castillo 90), Maripan, Pulgar, Diaz, Aranguiz, Hernandez, Opazo, Vargas (Fernandes 77), Sanchez.
Uruguay: Muslera - Gonzalez, Gimenez, Godin, Caceres, De Arrascaeta (Rodriguez 76), Valverde (Coates 90+2), Bentancur, Lodeiro (Nandez 46), Cavani, L Suarez.

Jun 24 - Belo Horizonte
Ecuador 1 (Mena 35)
Japan 1 (Nakajima 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 7,623. **Ref:** Valenzuela (Ven)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Velasco, Mina, Arboleda, Ramirez, Gruezo, Mena (Chicaiza 74), Orejuela, Mendez (Ayrton Preciado 46), Romario Ibarra (A Valencia 83), E Valencia.
Japan: Kawashima - Iwata, N Ueda, Tomiyasu, Sugioka, Miyoshi (Abe 82), Shibasaki, Itakura (Maeda 88), Nakajima, Kubo, Okazaki (A Ueda 66).

COPA AMERICA – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Chile (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Japan	3	0	2	1	3	7	2
Ecuador	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

● *The top 2 in each group and the 2 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for the quarter-finals*

Quarter-finals

Jun 27 - Porto Alegre
Brazil 0
Paraguay 0
Brazil 4-3 on pens
Att: 44,902. **Ref:** Tobar (Chl)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves (Lucas Paqueta 85), Marquinhos, Thiago Silva, Filipe Luis (Alex Sandro 46), Arthur, Allan (Willian 71), Gabriel Jesus, Philippe Coutinho, Everton, Roberto Firmino.
Paraguay: Fernandez - I Piris, Balbuena, Gomez, Alonso, Perez (R Rojas 74), Sanchez (Escobar 78), C Ortiz, Arzamendia (B Valdez 61), Almiron, D Gonzalez. *Sent off: Balbuena 58.*

Jun 28 - Rio deJaneiro
Venezuela 0
Argentina 2 (Lautaro Martinez 10, Lo Celso 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,094. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Venezuela: Farinez - Hernandez, Chancellor, Mago (Soteldo 56), Rosales (Seijas 83), Moreno, Murillo, Herrera, Rincon, Machis (Martinez 71), Rondon.
Argentina: Armani - Foyth, Pezzella, Otamendi, Tagliafico, De Paul, Paredes, Acuna (Lo Celso 68), Messi, Lautaro Martinez (Di Maria 64), Aguero (Dybala 85).

Jun 28 - Sao Paulo
Colombia 0
Chile 0
Chile 5-4 on pens
Att: 44,062. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Colombia: Ospina - Medina, Mina, D Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado, Barrios, Uribe (Cardona 67), Rodriguez, Falcao (D Zapata 77), Martinez (Diaz 81).
Chile: Arias - Isla, Medel, Maripan, Beausejour, Vidal, Pulgar, Aranguiz, Fuenzalida (Pavez 75), Vargas, Sanchez.

Jun 29 - Salvador
Uruguay 0
Peru 0
Peru 5-4 on pens
Att: 21,180. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)
Uruguay: Muslera - Gonzalez, Gimenez, Godin, Caceres, Nandez (Torreira 57), Valverde (Stuani 90+7), Bentancur, De Arrascaeta, L Suarez, Cavani.
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Abram, Trauco, Tapia, Yotun, Carrillo (Gonzales 75), Cueva (Ruidiaz 85), Flores, Guerrero.

Semi-finals

Jul 2 - Belo Horizonte
Brazil 2 (Gabriel Jesus 19, Roberto Firmino 71)
Argentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,947. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos (Miranda 64), Thiago Silva, Alex Sandro, Arthur, Casemiro, Gabriel Jesus (Allan 80), Philippe Coutinho, Everton (Willian 46), Roberto Firmino.
Argentina: Armani - Foyth, Pezzella, Otamendi, Tagliafico (Dybala 85), De Paul (Lo Celso 67), Paredes, Acuna (Di Maria 59), Messi, Lautaro Martinez, Aguero.

Jul 3 - Porto Alegre
Chile 0
Peru 3 (Flores 21, Yotun 38, Guerrero 90+1)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 33,058. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Chile: Arias - Isla, Medel, Maripan (Castillo 89), Beausejour, Aranguiz, Pulgar, Vidal, Fuenzalida (Sagal 46), Vargas, Sanchez.
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Abram, Trauco, Tapia, Yotun, Carrillo (Polo 71), Cueva (Ballon 80), Flores (Gonzales 50), Guerrero.

3rd-place match

Jul 6 - Sao Paulo
Argentina 2 (Aguero 12, Dybala 22)
Chile 1 (Vidal pen 59)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 44,269. **Ref:** Diaz de Vivar (Par)
Argentina: Armani - Foyth, Pezzella, Otamendi, Tagliafico, De Paul, Paredes, Lo Celso (Funes Mori 90), Messi, Dybala (Di Maria 67), Aguero (Suarez 81).
Sent off: Messi 37.
Chile: Arias - Medel, Jara (Maripan 50), Diaz, Pulgar, Isla, Aranguiz (Castillo 83), Vidal, Beausejour, Vargas, Sanchez (Fernandes 17).
Sent off: Medel 37.

Final

Jul 7 - Rio deJaneiro
Brazil 3 (Everton 15, Gabriel Jesus 45+3, Richarlison pen 90)
Peru 1 (Guerrero pen 44)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 69,906. **Ref:** Tobar (Chl)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Thiago Silva, Alex Sandro, Arthur, Casemiro, Gabriel Jesus, Philippe Coutinho (Eder Militao 77), Everton (Allan 90+3), Roberto Firmino (Richarlison 75). *Sent off: Gabriel Jesus 70.*
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Abram, Trauco, Tapia (Gonzales 82), Yotun (Ruidiaz 78), Flores, Cueva, Carrillo (Polo 86), Guerrero.

CONCACAF GOLD CUP

Played in the United States (except where stated)

Group A

Jun15 - Pasadena
Canada 4 (David 33, 53, Hoilett 63, Arfield 67)
Martinique 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,527. **Ref:** Martinez (Hnd)
Canada: Borjan - Godinho, Hutchinson, Cornelius, Kaye (Teibert 75), Arfield, Piette, Hoilett (Cavallini 64), Osorio, Davies (Millar 70), David.
Martinique: Chauvet - Vitulin, Delem, Babin, Camille, Herelle, Marveaux (Jougon 73), Yann Thimon (Marajo 76), Abaul, Fortune (Biron 64), Parsemain.

Jun15 - Pasadena
Mexico 7 (Antuna 2, 44, 80, Jimenez 31, 64, Reyes 38, Vega 74)
Cuba 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 65,527. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
Mexico: Ochoa - L Rodriguez, Salcedo (C Montes 77), Araujo, Gallardo, C Rodriguez, Reyes, Guardado, Antuna, Jimenez (Vega 72), Alvarado (Pineda 65).
Cuba: Sanchez - Martinez, Lopez, Piedra, Morejon (Luis 57), Abreu, Espino (Portal 87), Morris (Alvarez 66), Hernandez, Paradela, Baquero.

Jun19 - Denver
Cuba 0
Martinique 3 (Marveaux 45, Abaul 70, Fortune 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 52,874. **Ref:** Al Jassim (Qat)
Cuba: Sanchez - Rizo, Piedra, Luis, Morejon, Baquero, Espino (Alvarez 44), Reyes, Hernandez, Caballero (Perez 66), Paradela (Portal 88). *Sent off: Rizo 81*.
Martinique: Chauvet - Camille, Barthelery (Yordan Thimon 76), Delem, Babin, Marveaux (Pastel 89), Abaul, Biron (Marajo 59), Herelle, Parsemain, Fortune.

Jun19 - Denver
Mexico 3 (Alvarado 40, Guardado 54, 77)
Canada 1 (Cavallini 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,874. **Ref:** Bejarano (CR)
Mexico: Ochoa - L Rodriguez, Reyes, Araujo, Gallardo, J Dos Santos (C Rodriguez 73), Alvarez, Gutierrez (Guardado 37), Antuna, Jimenez, Alvarado (L Montes 68).
Canada: Borjan - Brault-Guillard, Hutchinson, Henry, Cornelius, Teibert (Osorio 60), Larin (David 57), Johnson (Arfield 60), Kaye, Davies, Cavallini.

Jun 23 - Charlotte
Canada 7 (David 3, 71, 77, Cavallini 21, 43, 45+1, Hoilett 50)
Cuba 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 59,283. **Ref:** Villarreal (USA)
Canada: Borjan - Cornelius, Henry (Miller 61), Godinho, Arfield, Piette, Hoilett, Osorio, Davies (Millar 70), David, Cavallini (Morgan 61).
Cuba: Sanchez - Piedra, Morejon, Baquero, Alvarez (Espino 54), Portal (Abreu 76), Reyes, Hernandez, Kindelan, Caballero, Paradela (Rodriguez 70).

Jun 23 - Charlotte
Martinique 2 (Parsemain 56, Delem 84)
Mexico 3 (Antuna 29, Jimenez 61, Navarro 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 59,283. **Ref:** Barton (ESv)
Martinique: Chauvet - Babin, Delem, Camille, Yann Thimon (Jougon 79), Marveaux (Linord 14), Herelle, Abaul, Barthelery, Fortune (Marajo 68), Parsemain.
Mexico: Orozco - Navarro, C Montes, Salcedo, Gallardo, Guardado (J Dos Santos 67), C Rodriguez, Alvarez, Antuna, Jimenez (Vega 77), Alvarado (Pizarro 46).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico (Q)	3	3	0	0	13	3	9
Canada (Q)	3	2	0	1	12	3	6
Martinique	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Cuba	3	0	0	3	0	17	0

Group B

Jun16 - SanJose, Costa Rica
Haiti 2 (Pierrot 54, 66)
Bermuda 1 (Leverock 45+2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 19,140. **Ref:** Parchment (Jam)
Haiti: Placide - Arcus, Ade, Jerome (Geffrard 11), Guerrier, Alceus, Herivaux, Saba, Herold (Etienne 46), Nazon (Desire 87), Pierrot.
Bermuda: Eve - Brangman, Leverock, Bather, Minors, Bascome (Smith 77), Clemons, Simmons (Donawa 58), Lambe (Butterfield 62), Lewis, Wells.

Jun16 - SanJose, Costa Rica
Costa Rica 4 (Oviedo 7, Borges 19, Aguilar 45+1, Allan Cruz 75)
Nicaragua 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 19,140. **Ref:** Ortiz (Mex)
Costa Rica: Moreira - Gamboa, Waston, Duarte, Oviedo, Borges, Campbell, Allan Cruz, Aguilar (Leal 78), George (Ruiz 60), McDonald (Saborio 76).
Nicaragua: Lorente - Quijano, Montenegro, Copete, Rosas, M Lopez, Punyed (Cadena 38), Barrera, Bonilla (Gkoufas 85), Flores (Chavarria 46), Betancur.

Jun 20 - Frisco
Nicaragua 0
Haiti 2 (Saba 22, Rosas og 33)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Escobar (Gtm)
Nicaragua: Maradiaga - Quijano, O Lopez, Copete, Rosas (Flores 68), Serapio, Barrera, Punyed (Gkoufas 78), Cadena (Galeano 46), Bonilla, Betancur.
Haiti: Placide - Arcus, Jean-Baptiste, Geffrard, Guerrier (Christian 81), Saba (Cantave 73), Alceus, Herivaux, Etienne, Nazon, Pierrot (Desire 78).

Jun 20 - Frisco
Costa Rica 2 (George 30, Aguilar 54)
Bermuda 1 (Wells pen 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Martinez (Cub)
Costa Rica: Moreira - Gamboa, Waston, Duarte, Oviedo, Campbell (Bolanos 70), Allan Cruz, Borges, Aguilar (Matarrita 72), George, McDonald (Ruiz 46).
Bermuda: Eve - Brangman, Leverock, Bather, Harvey, Bascome (Smith 80), Butterfield, Lewis (Donawa 72), Clemons (Ming 72), Lambe, Wells.

Jun 24 - Harrison
Bermuda 2 (Simmons 60, Wells 71)
Nicaragua 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,044. **Ref:** Escobedo (Mex)
Bermuda: Eve - Brangman, Leverock, Bather, Minors (Harvey 53), Bascome, Clemons, Simmons (Robinson 73), Warren (Lee 79), Lewis, Wells.
Nicaragua: Maradiaga - Quijano, O Lopez, Copete, Rosas (Perez 70), Serapio, Barrera, Punyed (Gkoufas 64), Galeano (Cadena 84), Bonilla, Betancur.

Jun 24 - Harrison
Haiti 2 (Nazon pen 57, Alexis 81)
Costa Rica 1 (Alexis og 13)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,044. **Ref:** Elfath (USA)
Haiti: Placide - Alexis, Jean-Baptiste, Geffrard, Christian, Saba, Alceus (Bissainthe 79), Desire (Cantave 63), Bazile (Herold 75), Etienne, Nazon.
Costa Rica: Moreira - Fuller, Gonzalez, Calvo, Matarrita, Campbell (Aguilar 80), Allan Cruz, Borges, Leal, Ruiz (Duarte 70), Saborio (George 63).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haiti (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Costa Rica (Q)	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Bermuda	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Nicaragua	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

Group C

Jun17 - Kingston,Jamaica
Curacao 0
El Salvador 1 (Bonilla 45+2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,874. **Ref:** Lopez (Gtm)
Curacao: Room - C Martina, Lachman, Carolina (Arias 84), Gaari, Shermaine Martina (Statie 66), Bacuna, Maria (Van Kessel 58), Hooi, Benschop, Nepomuceno.
El Salvador: Hernandez - Tamacas, Dominguez, Mancia, Jimenez (Marroquin 86), D Ceren, Orellana, Flores (Monterrosa 82), O Ceren, Bonilla, Alas (Portillo 76).

Jun17 - Kingston,Jamaica
Jamaica 3 (Orgill 15, 41, Lowe 56)
Honduras 2 (Lozano 54, Castillo 90+2)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 17,874. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Jamaica: Blake - Powell, Lowe, Francis, Lawrence, Vassell (Flemmings 77), Hector (Lewis 68), Williams, Orgill (Nicholson 68), Brown, Bailey.
Honduras: L Lopez - Beckeles, H Figueroa, M Figueroa, Izaguirre, Elis, Garrido (B Acosta 75), Castellanos, A Lopez (Castillo 73), Lozano, Quioto (Chirinos 57).

Jun 21 - Houston
El Salvador 0
Jamaica 0
Att: 22,395. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
El Salvador: Hernandez - Tamacas, Dominguez, Mancia, Jimenez, Orellana (Monterrosa 83), O Ceren, D Ceren, Flores (Mayen 46), Portillo (Alas 67), Bonilla.
Jamaica: Blake - Powell, Lowe, Francis, Lawrence, Lewis, Hector, Flemmings (Morris 85), Bailey, Orgill (Mattocks 66), Brown (Nicholson 66).

Jun 21 - Houston
Honduras 0
Curacao 1 (Bacuna 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,395. **Ref:** Calderon (CR)
Honduras: L Lopez - Beckeles (B Acosta 46), H Figueroa, M Figueroa, Izaguirre, A Lopez (Castillo 46), Garrido, Alvarez, Elis, Lozano, Chirinos (Reyes 76).
Curacao: Room - Gaari, C Martina, Lachman, Statie, Hooi, Bacuna (Carmelia 85), Maria, Nepomuceno (Shermaine Martina 69), Arias (Van Kessel 79), Antonia.

Jun 25 - Los Angeles
Jamaica 1 (Nicholson 14)
Curacao 1 (Gaari 90+3)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,503. **Ref:** Ortiz (Mex)
Jamaica: Blake - Powell, Lowe (Hector 70), Francis, Lawrence, Williams (Magee 87), Watson, Flemmings, Lewis (Lambert 73), Morris, Nicholson.
Curacao: Room - Gaari, C Martina, Lachman, Statie (Van Kessel 76), Hooi, Bacuna, Maria (Shermaine Martina 62), Nepomuceno, Arias, Antonia (Gorre 70).

Jun 25 - Los Angeles
Honduras 4 (Alvarez 59, Castillo 65, B Acosta 75, Izaguirre 90)
El Salvador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,503. **Ref:** Guerrero (Mex)
Honduras: L Lopez - Crisanto, H Figueroa, M Figueroa, Alvarado, Garrido, Elis, Alvarez, B Acosta (Castellanos 79), Chirinos (Quioto 75), Castillo (Izaguirre 89).
El Salvador: Hernandez - Tamacas, Dominguez, Mancia, Jimenez, Orellana (Mayen 64), Monterrosa (Rugamas 76), O Ceren (Ortiz 60), D Ceren, Portillo, Bonilla.

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jamaica (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Curacao (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
El Salvador	3	1	1	1	1	4	4
Honduras	3	1	0	2	6	4	3

Group D

Jun18 - Saint Paul
Panama 2 (Cooper 53, Barcenas 68)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,418. **Ref:** Escobedo (Mex)
Panama: Mejia - Murillo, R Torres, Cummings, Davis, Quintero (Browne 89), Escobar, Cooper, Barcenas, Fajardo (Walker 78), G Torres (Arroyo 85).
Trinidad & Tobago: Phillip - A Jones, Cyrus, David, M Williams, Hyland, George (Paul 66), Lewis (Cato 83), Molino, J Williams (J Jones 65), L Garcia.

Jun18 - Saint Paul
United States 4 (Arriola 28, Boyd 51, 81, Zardes 55)
Guyana 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,418. **Ref:** Barton (ESv)
United States: Steffen - Lima, Zimmerman, Long, Ream, McKennie (Mihailovic 74), Bradley (Trapp 62), Pulisic (Roldan 62), Boyd, Zardes, Arriola.
Guyana: Clarke - Dover, Vancooten, Briggs, Gordon, Bonds, Danns (Holder 85), K Marsh-Brown (Jeffrey 73), Beresford (Cox 58), Harriott, Welshman.

Jun 22 - Cleveland
Guyana 2 (Danns pen 33, pen 90+3)
Panama 4 (Arroyo 16, Vancooten og 40, Davis pen 51, G Torres 86)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 23,921. **Ref:** Parchment (Jam)
Guyana: Clarke - Dover, Vancooten, Briggs, Gordon, Danns, Bonds (Duke-McKenna 55), Cox, Ondaan (Jeffrey 66), Welshman, Harriott (K Marsh-Brown 66).
Panama: Mejia - Murillo, R Torres, Cummings, Davis, Barcenas (Rodriguez 67), Escobar, Cooper, Quintero, Arroyo (Pimentel 78), Blackburn (G Torres 73).

Jun 22 - Cleveland
United States 6 (Long 41, 90, Zardes 66, 69, Pulisic 73, Arriola 78)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,921. **Ref:** Martinez (Hnd)
United States: Steffen - Lima (Cannon 84), Zimmerman, Long, Ream, Bradley, Boyd (Morris 61), McKennie, Pulisic, Arriola, Zardes (Altidore 74).
Trinidad & Tobago: Phillip - A Jones, Cyrus, David, Hackshaw, Hyland (Molino 17), George, Lewis (J Jones 67), Paul, Cato, L Garcia (Peltier 77).

Jun 26 - Kansas City
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Molino 80)
Guyana 1 (Danns 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,037. **Ref:** Calderon (CR)
Trinidad & Tobago: Foncette - David, Mitchell, Cyrus, M Williams, L Garcia (Cato 87), Paul, George, J Williams (J Jones 77), Winchester (Peltier 69), Molino.
Guyana: Roberts - Cox, Vancooten, R Marsh-Brown, Daniel, Bonds, Danns, Jeffrey (Harriott 46), Schultz (Beresford 46), K Marsh-Brown, Holder (Welshman 73).

Jun 26 - Kansas City
Panama 0
United States 1 (Altidore 66)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,037. **Ref:** Al Jassim (Qat)
Panama: Calderon - Palacios, Machado, Cummings, Galvan (Murillo 76), Browne, Escobar, Sanchez, Rodriguez, G Torres (Barcenas 68), Fajardo (Arroyo 46).
United States: Johnson - Cannon, Miazga, O Gonzalez, Lovitz, Trapp, Morris (Boyd 70), Roldan, Mihailovic, Lewis (Pulisic 65), Altidore (Zardes 82).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA (Q)	3	3	0	0	11	0	9
Panama (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Guyana	3	0	1	2	3	9	1
Trin & Tob	3	0	1	2	1	9	1

● *The top 2 in each group qualified for the quarter-finals*

Quarter-finals

Jun 29 - Houston
Haiti 3 (Nazon 50, Bazile pen 70, Guerrier 76)
Canada 2 (David 18, Cavallini 28)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 70,788. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Haiti: Placide - Geffrard, Jean-Baptiste, Christian, Arcus, Guerrier (Herivaux 83), Saba (Bissainthe 90+3), Alceus, Bazile, Pierrot (Etienne 62), Nazon.
Canada: Borjan - Godinho, Henry, Cornelius, Davies, Arfield, Osorio (Kaye 64), Hutchinson, Hoilett, David, Cavallini (Morgan 80).

Jun 29 - Houston
Mexico 1 (Jimenez 44)
Costa Rica 1 (Ruiz pen 52)
Aet. Mexico 5-4 on pens
HT: 1-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 70,788. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
Mexico: Ochoa - L Rodriguez, Salcedo, Araujo (Moreno 106), Alvarez, Gallardo, J Dos Santos (L Montes 90), Guardado (C Rodriguez 84), Antuna (Alvarado 85), Jimenez, Pizarro.
Costa Rica: Moreira - Duarte, Waston, Oviedo (Calvo 99), Fuller, Borges, Allan Cruz, Leal, Ruiz (Aguilar 111), George (McDonald 72), Campbell (Gamboa 102).

Jun 30 - Philadelphia
Jamaica 1 (Mattocks pen 75)
Panama 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 26,233. **Ref:** Escobar (Gtm)
Jamaica: Blake - Powell, Francis, Hector, Lawrence, Lowe, Watson, Orgill (Mattocks 73), Bailey, Nicholson (Topey 90), Flemmings.
Panama: Mejia - Murillo, R Torres, Cummings, Davis, Barcenas, Escobar, Cooper (Pimentel 89), Quintero (Blackburn 84), Arroyo, G Torres (Browne 60).

Jun 30 - Philadelphia
United States 1 (McKennie 25)
Curacao 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,233. **Ref:** Escobedo (Mex)
United States: Steffen - Lima, Zimmerman, Long, Ream, McKennie, Bradley, Pulisic, Boyd (Morris 63), Zardes, Arriola (O Gonzalez 90+1).
Curacao: Room - Gaari, C Martina, Lachman, Statie (Carolina 68), Shermaine Martina (Maria 80), Bacuna, Hooi, Nepomuceno, Arias, Gorre (Van Kessel 75).

Semi-finals

Jul 2 - Glendale
Haiti 0
Mexico 1 (Jimenez pen 93)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 64,128.
Ref: Al Jassim (Qat)
Haiti: Placide - Geffrard, Jean-Baptiste, Christian, Arcus, Saba (Herivaux 99), Alceus, Guerrier (Cantave 100), Bazile, Nazon (Etienne 69), Pierrot (Desire 83).
Mexico: Ochoa - L Rodriguez, Salcedo, Alvarez (Reyes 91), Moreno, Gallardo, J Dos Santos (L Montes 105), Guardado (C Rodriguez 68), Alvarado (Antuna 68), Jimenez, Pizarro.

Jul 3 - Nashville
Jamaica 1 (Nicholson 69)
United States 3 (McKennie 9, Pulisic 52, 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,473. **Ref:** Barton (ESv)
Jamaica: Blake - Powell, Hector, Francis, Lawrence, Watson, Williams, Bailey, Mattocks (Brown 74), Flemmings (Nicholson 65), Vassell (Lewis 83).
United States: Steffen - Cannon, Miazga, Long, Ream, McKennie, Bradley, Pulisic, Morris (Roldan 70), Altidore (Zardes 56), Arriola (Lovitz 88).

Final

Jul 7 - Chicago
Mexico 1 (J Dos Santos 73)
United States 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 62,493. **Ref:** Escobar (Gtm)
Mexico: Ochoa - L Rodriguez, Salcedo, Moreno, Gallardo, J Dos Santos, Alvarez, Guardado (Reyes 89), Antuna (Alvarado 86), Jimenez, Pizarro (C Rodriguez 81).
United States: Steffen - Cannon, Miazga, Long, Ream (Lovitz 83), McKennie, Bradley, Pulisic, Morris (Roldan 61), Altidore (Zardes 64), Arriola.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FINALS

Played in Portugal

Semi-finals

Jun 5 - Porto
Portugal 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 25, 88, 90)
Switzerland 1 (Rodriguez pen 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,415. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Nelson Semedo, Pepe (Jose Fonte 63), Ruben Dias, Raphael Guerreiro, Bruno Fernandes (Joao Moutinho 90+1), William Carvalho, Ruben Neves, Bernardo Silva, Joao Felix (Goncalo Guedes 70), Cristiano Ronaldo.
Switzerland: Sommer - Mbabu, Schar, Akanji, Rodriguez, Zakaria (Fernandes 71), Xhaka, Freuler (Drmic 89), Zuber (Steffen 83), Shaqiri, Seferovic.

Jun 6 - Guimaraes
Holland 3 (De Ligt 73, Walker og 97, Promes 114)
England 1 (Rashford pen 32)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 25,711.
Ref: Turpin (Fra)
Holland: Cillessen - Dumfries, De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, De Roon (Van de Beek 68), F De Jong (Strootman 114), Wijnaldum, Bergwijn (Propper 90), Depay, Babel (Promes 68).
England: Pickford - Walker, Stones, Maguire, Chilwell, Rice (Alli 106), Delph (Henderson 77), Barkley, Sancho (Lingard 61), Rashford (Kane 46), Sterling.

3rd-place match

Jun 9 - Guimaraes
Switzerland 0
England 0
Aet. England 6-5 on pens
Att: 15,742. **Ref:** Hategan (Rom)
Switzerland: Sommer - Schar, Akanji, Elvedi, Mbabu, Xhaka, Freuler, Rodriguez (Drmic 87), Shaqiri (Zuber 65), Fernandes (Zakaria 61), Seferovic (Okafor 113).
England: Pickford - Alexander-Arnold, Gomez, Maguire, Rose (Walker 70), Dier, Delph (Barkley 106), Lingard (Sancho 106), Alli, Sterling, Kane (Wilson 75).

Final

Jun 9 - Porto
Portugal 1 (Goncalo Guedes 60)
Holland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,199. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Nelson Semedo, Ruben Dias, Jose Fonte, Raphael Guerreiro, Danilo Pereira, William Carvalho (Ruben Neves 90+3), Bruno Fernandes (Joao Moutinho 81), Bernardo Silva, Goncalo Guedes (Rafa Silva 75), Cristiano Ronaldo.
Holland: Cillessen - Dumfries, De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, De Roon (L De Jong 81), F De Jong, Wijnaldum, Bergwijn (Van de Beek 60), Depay, Babel (Promes 46).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS

Group A

Jun 7 - Prague
Czech Republic 2 (Schick 20, 50)
Bulgaria 1 (Isa 3)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 13,482. **Ref:** Bognar (Hun)
Czech Republic: Vaclik - Kaderabek, Celustka, Suchy, Novak, Pavelka, Soucek, Masopust (Kopic 66), Kral, Jankto (Krejci 82), Schick (Dolezal 78).
Bulgaria: Mihaylov - S Popov, Dimitrov, Bozhikov, Nedyalkov, I Popov, Malinov (Karabelyov 64), Sarmov, Nedelev (Chunchukov 82), Minchev (Despodov 46), Isa.

Jun 7 - Podgorica
Montenegro 1 (Mugosa 69)
Kosovo 1 (Rashica 24)
HT: 0-1. *Played behind closed doors.*
Ref: Orsato (Ita)
Montenegro: Mijatovic - Marusic, Vujacic, Simic, Tomasevic (Boljevic 71), Scekic (Bakic 59), Kosovic, Jankovic (Jovovic 85), Mugosa, Vesovic, Beciraj.
Kosovo: Muric - Vojvoda, Rrahmani, Aliti, Paqarada (Kololli 69), Halimi, Voca, Rashica, Celina (Rashani 78), Zeneli (Zhegrova 39), Muriqi.

Jun10 - Sofia
Bulgaria 2 (I Popov 43, Dimitrov 55)
Kosovo 3 (Rashica 14, Muriqi 64, Rashani 90+3)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,994. **Ref:** Kristoffersen (Den)
Bulgaria: Mihaylov - S Popov, Nedyalkov, Bozhikov (Dimitrov 46), Goranov, Nedelev (G Iliev 70), Kostadinov, I Popov, Despodov, Isa (Chunchukov 79), G Ivanov.
Kosovo: Muric - Vojvoda (Hadergjonaj 62), Rrahmani, Aliti, Kololli, Voca (Rashkaj 62), Halimi, Zhegrova (Rashani 76), Celina, Rashica, Muriqi.

Jun10 - Olomouc
Czech Republic 3 (Jankto 18, Kopitovic og 49, Schick pen 82)
Montenegro 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,565. **Ref:** Bezborodov (Rus)
Czech Republic: Vaclik - Kaderabek, Celustka, Suchy, Novak, Soucek, Pavelka, Masopust (Kopic 39), Kral, Jankto (Krejci 74), Schick (Kozak 88).
Montenegro: Mijatovic - Marusic (Jankovic 60), Kopitovic, Vujacic, Radunovic, Vukcevic (Savicevic 67), Kosovic, Vesovic, Bakic, Jovovic, Mugosa (Beciraj 85).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	10	1	6
Czech Rep	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Kosovo	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Montenegro	4	0	2	2	3	10	2
Bulgaria	4	0	2	2	5	7	2

Group B

Jun 7 - Vilnius
Lithuania 1 (Novikovas 74)
Luxembourg 1 (Rodrigues 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,263. **Ref:** Farkas (Hun)
Lithuania: Bartkus - Mikoliunas, Klimavicius, Palionis, Andriuskevicius, Vorobjovas, Slivka, Novikovas, Golubickas (Simkus 52), Valskis (Laukzemis 55), Cernych (Kazlauskas 89).
Sent off: Mikoliunas 42, Vorobjovas 90+4.
Luxembourg: Moris - Jans, Gerson, Selimovic, Carlson (Malget 61), V Thill, Barreiro, C Martins, O Thill (Sinani 80), Rodrigues, Turpel (Bensi 67).

Jun 7 - Lviv
Ukraine 5 (Tsygankov 26, 28, Konoplyanka 46, 75, Yaremchuk 59)
Serbia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Ukraine: Pyatov - Karavaev, Kryvtsov, Matviyenko, Mykolenko, Malinovskyi, Stepanenko (Shepelev 72), Zinchenko, Tsygankov, Yaremchuk (A Kravets 67), Konoplyanka (Kovalenko 76).
Serbia: Dmitrovic - Milenkovic, Spajic, Kolarov, Gacinovic, Maksimovic, Tadic, Ljajic (Fejsa 60), Kostic, Prijovic (A Mitrovic 53), Jovic (Lazovic 72).

Jun10 - Belgrade
Serbia 4 (A Mitrovic 20, 34, Jovic 35, Ljajic 90+2)
Lithuania 1 (Novikovas pen 71)
HT: 3-0. *Played behind closed doors.*
Ref: Jaccottet (Swi)
Serbia: Dmitrovic - Rukavina, Spajic, Milenkovic, Kolarov, Maksimovic, Lukic, Tadic (Ljajic 81), Kostic (Zivkovic 71), Jovic (Katai 87), A Mitrovic.
Lithuania: Bartkus - Klimavicius, Jankauskas (Chvedukas 46), Palionis, Baravykas, Simkus, Slivka, Andriuskevicius, Novikovas, Laukzemis (Valskis 77), Cernych (Petravicius 69).

Jun10 - Lviv
Ukraine 1 (Yaremchuk 6)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,264. **Ref:** Kralovic (Slk)
Ukraine: Pyatov - Karavaev, Kryvtsov, Matviyenko, Mykolenko, Malinovskyi, Stepanenko, Zinchenko, Tsygankov (Sobol 88), Yaremchuk, Konoplyanka (Kovalenko 80).
Luxembourg: Moris - M Martins, Chanot, Gerson, Jans, V Thill, O Thill (Turpel 77), C Martins, Barreiro, Rodrigues, Da Mota (Bensi 52).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	4	3	1	0	8	1	10
Luxembourg	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Serbia	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Portugal	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Lithuania	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

Group C

Jun 8 - Borisov
Belarus 0
Germany 2 (Sane 13, Reus 62)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,510. **Ref:** Jovanovic (Ser)
Belarus: Gutor - Shitov, Polyakov, Martynovich, Naumov, Volodko, Gromyko (Korzun 57), Maevski, Dragun, Laptev (Skavysh 62), Kovalev (Gordeichuk 69).
Germany: Neuer - Ginter, Sule, Tah, Klostermann, Kimmich, Gundogan (Goretzka 81), Schulz, Reus (Brandt 76), Gnabry (Draxler 71), Sane.

Jun 8 - Tallinn
Estonia 1 (Vassiljev 25)
Northern Ireland 2 (Washington 77, Magennis 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,378. **Ref:** Verissimo (Por)
Estonia: Lepmets - Teniste (Kams 85), Vihmann, Mets, Pikk, Dmitrijev, Kait (Tamm 85), Zenjov, Vassiljev, Sinyavskiy, Sappinen (Sorga 61).
Northern Ireland: Peacock-Farrell - Smith (Jones 64), Cathcart, J Evans, Lewis, McNair, Davis, Saville (Magennis 69), Whyte, Boyce (Washington 46), Dallas.

Jun11 - Borisov
Belarus 0
Northern Ireland 1 (McNair 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,250. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)
Belarus: Gutor - Shitov (Veretilo 72), Martynovich, Naumov, Polyakov, Maevski, Korzun (Kislyak 46), Kovalev, Shikavka (Laptev 58), Stasevich, Nekhaychik.
Northern Ireland: Peacock-Farrell - Smith, Cathcart, J Evans, Lewis, McNair, Davis, C Evans (Saville 69), Magennis (Dallas 56), Washington (Lafferty 72), Jones.

Jun11 - Mainz
Germany 8 (Reus 10, 37, Gnabry 17, 62, Goretzka 20, Gundogan pen 26, Werner 79, Sane 88)
Estonia 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Palabiyik (Tur)
Germany: Neuer - Kehrer, Ginter, Sule, Schulz (Halstenberg 46), Goretzka, Kimmich, Gundogan (Draxler 53), Reus (Werner 65), Gnabry, Sane.
Estonia: Lepmets - Teniste, Tamm, Vihmann, Mets, Pikk, Kams, Dmitrijev (Kait 59), Vassiljev (Kreida 82), Puri, Zenjov (Ojamaa 71).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Ireland	4	4	0	0	7	2	12
Germany	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Holland	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Belarus	4	0	0	4	1	9	0
Estonia	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group D

Jun 7 - Copenhagen
Denmark 1 (Hojbjerg 76)
Republic of Ireland 1 (Duffy 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,610. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Dalsgaard, Kjaer, Christensen, J Larsen, Schone (Hojbjerg 72), Delaney, Poulsen, Eriksen, Braithwaite (Dolberg 65), N Jorgensen.
Republic of Ireland: Randolph - Coleman, Duffy, Keogh, Stevens, Brady (Judge 66), Hendrick, Whelan, Hourihane (Hogan 82), McClean, McGoldrick (Robinson 88).

Jun 7 - Tbilisi
Georgia 3 (Gvilia 30, Papunashvili 59, Arveladze pen 76)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,357. **Ref:** Munukka (Fin)
Georgia: Loria - Kakabadze, Kashia, Grigalava, Kharabadze, Kvekveskiri, Kankava (Mchedlidze 77), Merebashvili (Kiteishvili 72), Gvilia, Kvaratskhelia (Papunashvili 47), Arveladze.
Gibraltar: Goldwin - Sergeant, R Chipolina, J Chipolina, Mascarenhas-Olivero, Annesley (Barnett 86), Casciaro (Pons 65), Walker, Bardon (Coombes 77), Anthony Hernandez, De Barr.

Jun10 - Copenhagen
Denmark 5 (Dolberg 13, 63, Eriksen pen 30, Poulsen 73, Braithwaite 90+3)
Georgia 1 (Lobzhanidze 25)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,387. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Ankersen, Kjaer (M Jorgensen 36), Christensen, J Larsen, Delaney, Hojbjerg, Skov (Wass 62), Eriksen, Poulsen (Braithwaite 75), Dolberg.
Georgia: Loria - Kakabadze, Kashia, Grigalava, Parunashvili (Papunashvili 58), Kankava, Kvekveskiri, Kiteishvili (Lobjanidze 73), Navalovski (Dvali 79), Lobzhanidze, Gvilia.

Jun10 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 2 (J Chipolina og 29, Brady 90+3)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,281. **Ref:** Petrescu (Rom)
Republic of Ireland: Randolph - Coleman, Duffy, Keogh, Stevens, Robinson (Brady 73), Hendrick, Hourihane, McClean, McGoldrick, Hogan (Maguire 66).
Gibraltar: Goldwin - Sergeant, R Chipolina, J Chipolina, Mascarenhas-Olivero, Casciaro (Bardon 9), Andrew Hernandez (Jolley 76), Walker, Annesley, Pons (Britto 64), De Barr.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep of Ireland	4	3	1	0	5	1	10
Denmark	3	1	2	0	9	5	5
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Georgia	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Gibraltar	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

Group E

Jun 8 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (Emreli 69)
Hungary 3 (Orban 18, 53, Holman 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Blom (Hol)
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Medvedev, Mammadov, Huseynov, Krivotsyuk, Nazarov (Rufat Dadashov 86), Garayev, Richard Almeida, Emreli (Abdullayev 74), Renat Dadashov (Ramazanov 59), Sheydayev.
Hungary: Gulacsi - Lovrencsics, Barath, Orban, Korhut, A Nagy, Kleinheisler (Patkai 72), Dzsudzsak (Nemeth 86), Szoboszlai (Holman 58), D Nagy, Szalai.

Jun 8 - Osijek
Croatia 2 (J Lawrence og 17, Perisic 48)
Wales 1 (Brooks 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Kovacs (Rom)
Croatia: Livakovic - Jedvaj, Lovren, Vida, Barisic, Modric, Brozovic, Brekalo (Pasalic 67), Kovacic (Badelj 76), Perisic (Skoric 90+3), Kramaric.
Wales: Hennessey - C Roberts, Mepham, J Lawrence, B Davies, Vaulks (Ampadu 66), Allen, Smith (Brooks 65), Bale, Wilson, James (Matondo 79).

Jun11 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (Sheydayev 29)
Slovakia 5 (Lobotka 8, Kucka 27, Hamsik 30, 57, Hancko 85)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Beaton (Sco)
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Medvedev, Huseynov, Krivotsyuk, Rahimov, Eyyubov (Mahmudov 79), Garayev, Richard Almeida, Abdullayev (Renat Dadashov 89), Sheydayev, Ramazanov (Emreli 61).
Slovakia: Dubravka - Pekarik, Vavro, Skriniar, Hancko, Kucka, Lobotka (Gregus 84), Hamsik (Haraslin 86), Rusnak, Bozenik (Duda 71), Mak.

Jun11 - Budapest
Hungary 1 (Patkai 80)
Wales 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Hungary: Gulacsi - Lovrencsics, Barath, Orban, Korhut, Patkai, A Nagy, Szoboszlai (Bese 83), Dzsudzsak (Kleinheisler 70), Szalai, Holender (Varga 59).
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, Williams, J Lawrence, B Davies, Ampadu (Smith 54), Allen, Bale, Brooks (Wilson 73), T Lawrence (Vokes 79), James.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Slovakia	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Croatia	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Wales	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Group F

Jun 7 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 1 (K Olsen 30)
Spain 4 (Sergio Ramos 6, Jesus Navas 19, Gestsson og 34, Gaya 71)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Jorgji (Alb)
Faroe Islands: Gestsson - Rolantsson, Gregersen, Faero, Davidsen, Vatnhamar, B Olsen, Vatnsdal (Baldvinsson 74), Frederiksberg (M Olsen 86), Hansson, K Olsen (Johannesen 68).
Spain: Kepa - Jesus Navas, Sergio Ramos (Llorente 46), Hermoso, Gaya, Sergi Roberto, Rodri, Cazorla, Iago Aspas (Marco Asensio 56), Morata, Isco (Fabian 74).

Jun 7 - Oslo
Norway 2 (T Elyounoussi 56, Odegaard 70)
Romania 2 (Keseru 77, 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,664. **Ref:** Karasev (Rus)
Norway: Grytebust - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Ajer, Aleesami, Odegaard, Berge, Selnaes, Henriksen, King, T Elyounoussi (Kamara 84).
Romania: Tatarusanu - Chipciu, Sapunaru, Grigore, Tosca, Anton, Stanciu (Maxim 71), Deac, Keseru, Grozav (Hagi 60), Puscas (Tucudean 60).

Jun 7 - Stockholm
Sweden 3 (Quaison 2, Claesson 50, Isak 81)
Malta 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,421. **Ref:** Harvey (RoI)
Sweden: Olsen - Lustig, Jansson, Helander, Augustinsson, Claesson, K Olsson, Ekdal (Sebastian Larsson 77), Forsberg, Quaison (Guidetti 85), Berg (Isak 69).
Malta: Bonello - Corbalan, Borg (Apap 80), Agius, Z Muscat, Mbong, Effiong, R Muscat, Gambin, Grech (P Fenech 64), Montebello (Nwoko 71).

Jun10 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 0
Norway 2 (Johnsen 49, 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,083. **Ref:** Rumsas (Lit)
Faroe Islands: Gestsson - Rolantsson, Gregersen, Faero, Davidsen, Vatnhamar (Frederiksberg 69), Baldvinsson, B Olsen, R Joensen (Vatnsdal 84), Hansson, K Olsen (Johannesen 89).
Norway: Hansen - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Ajer, Aleesami, Odegaard, Berge, Selnaes (Midtsjo 81), Henriksen (S Johansen 72), Johnsen, T Elyounoussi (Kamara 58).

Jun10 - Valletta
Malta 0
Romania 4 (Puscas 7, 29, Chipciu 34, Man 90+1)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Higler (Hol)
Malta: Bonello - Z Muscat, Agius, Borg, Zerafa, R Muscat, P Fenech (Grech 59), Mbong, Corbalan (Montebello 84), Gambin (Mifsud 67), Effiong.
Romania: Tatarusanu - Chipciu, Cristea, Nedelcearu (Sapunaru 35), Bancu, Marin, Baluta, Maxim (Rotariu 75), Hagi, Keseru (Man 65), Puscas. *Sent off: Chipciu 81.*

Jun10 - Madrid
Spain 3 (Sergio Ramos pen 64, Morata pen 85, Oyarzabal 87)
Sweden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 72,205. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Spain: Kepa - Carvajal, Sergio Ramos, Inigo Martinez (Llorente 88), Jordi Alba, Dani Parejo, Busquets, Fabian, Marco Asensio (Morata 65), Rodrigo (Oyarzabal 71), Isco.
Sweden: Olsen - Lustig, Jansson, Helander, Augustinsson, Claesson (Johansson 27), Sebastian Larsson (Isak 82), Ekdal (K Olsson 86), Forsberg, Berg, Quaison.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	4	0	0	11	2	12
Sweden	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Romania	4	2	1	1	11	5	7
Norway	4	1	2	1	8	7	5
Malta	4	1	0	3	2	10	3
Faroe Islands	4	0	0	4	3	12	0

Group G

Jun 7 - Klagenfurt
Austria 1 (Burgstaller 74)
Slovenia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,200. **Ref:** Kulbakov (Bls)
Austria: Lindner - Lainer, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Ulmer, Laimer (Ilsanker 82), Lazaro, Sabitzer (Burgstaller 71), Schlager, Alaba (Kainz 90), Arnautovic.
Slovenia: Oblak - Stojanovic, Aljaz Struna, Mevlja, Jokic, Crnigoj (Beric 78), Bijol (Popovic 63), Kurtic, Zajc (Bohar 69), Ilicic, Sporar.

Jun 7 - Riga
Latvia 0
Israel 3 (Zahavi 10, 60, 81)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Latvia: Steinbors - Savalnieks, Dubra, Oss, Maksimenko, Laizans (Rugins 79), Tobers, Rakels, Ikaunieks (Ciganiks 57), Karasausks (Kamess 67), Gutkovskis.
Israel: Harush - Dasa, Taha, Yeini, Bitton, Ben Harush (Y Cohen 81), Peretz, Natcho, Kayal (Glazer 73), Saba (Sahar 66), Zahavi.

Jun 7 - Skopje
North Macedonia 0
Poland 1 (Piatek 47)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
North Macedonia: Dimitrievski - Bejtulai, Velkovski, Musliu, Ristovski (Ademi 76), Bardhi, Nikolov (Trajkovski 62), Elmas, Alioski, Pandev (Hasani 84), Nestorovski. *Sent off: Musliu 85.*
Poland: Fabianski - Kedziora, Glik, Bednarek, Bereszynski, Klich (Goralski 90), Krychowiak, Frankowski (Piatek 46), Zielinski, Grosicki (Rybus 69), Lewandowski.

Jun10 - Riga
Latvia 0
Slovenia 5 (Crnigoj 24, 27, Ilicic pen 29, 44, Zajc 47)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 4,011. **Ref:** Clancy (Sco)
Latvia: Steinbors - Savalnieks, Dubra, Oss, Maksimenko (Jagodinskis 16), Solovjovs, Rakels (Ontuzans 78), Laizans, Tobers (Rugins 69), Kamess, Gutkovskis.
Slovenia: Oblak - Stojanovic, Aljaz Struna, Mevlja, Jokic, Ilicic, Popovic (Zahovic 77), Kurtic, Crnigoj (Majer 83), Beric, Zajc (Bijol 64).

Jun10 - Skopje
North Macedonia 1 (Hinteregger og 18)
Austria 4 (Lazaro 39, Arnautovic pen 62, 82, Bejtulai og 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Eskov (Rus)
North Macedonia: Dimitrievski - Ristovski, Bejtulai, Velkovski, Alioski, Nikolov (Hasani 67), Bardhi, Ademi, Elmas (Ristevski 55), Pandev, Nestorovski (Radeski 55).
Austria: Lindner - Lainer, Dragovic (Posch 46), Hinteregger, Ulmer, Ilsanker, Lazaro, Schlager, Laimer, Sabitzer (Schaub 90+2), Arnautovic (Burgstaller 88).

Jun10 - Warsaw
Poland 4 (Piatek 35, Lewandowski pen 56, Grosicki 59, Kadzior 84)
Israel 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 57,229. **Ref:** Stieler (Ger)
Poland: Fabianski - Kedziora, Glik, Bednarek, Bereszynski, Zielinski, Klich (Goralski 75), Krychowiak, Grosicki (Kadzior 77), Piatek (Milik 73), Lewandowski.
Israel: Harush - Dasa, Taha, Yeini, Bitton (Elhamed 82), Ben Harush, Peretz, Natcho, Kayal (Y Cohen 57), Solomon (Saba 72), Zahavi.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	0	8	0	12
Israel	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Austria	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Slovenia	4	1	2	1	7	3	5
N Macedonia	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Latvia	4	0	0	4	1	13	0

Group H

Jun 8 - Reykjavik
Iceland 1 (J Gudmundsson 22)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,968. **Ref:** Madden (Sco)
Iceland: Halldorsson - Hermannsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Skulason, J Gudmundsson (Traustason 56), Gunnarsson, B Bjarnason, Sigurjonsson (A Sigurdsson 81), G Sigurdsson, Kjartansson (Sigthorsson 63).
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Dermaku, Ismajli, Veseli, Abrashi, Xhaka (Ndoj 72), Basha (Kace 67), Cikalleshi (Sadiku 79), Balaj, Lenjani.

Jun 8 - Chisinau
Moldova 1 (Armas 8)
Andorra 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pandzic (Swe)
Moldova: Koselev - Jardan, Efros, Armas, Reabciuk, Ionita, Carp, Antoniuc (Cociuc 64), Suvorov (Cebotaru 50), Ginsari, Damascan (Boiciuc 80). *Sent off: Ionita 47.*
Andorra: Gomes - Jesus Rubio (A Martinez 72), Llovera, Lima, San Nicolas, Clemente, Rebes (Moreno 69), Vales, Cervos, Alaez (A Sanchez 82), Vieira.

Jun 8 - Konya
Turkey 2 (Ayhan 30, Cengiz Under 40)
France 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 42,160. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Turkey: Mert - Mehmet Celik, Ayhan, Merih, Kaldirim, Mahmut, Cengiz Under (Yusuf 85), Dorukhan (Abdulkadir 90), Irfan (Ozan 80), Karaman, Burak.
France: Lloris - Pavard, Varane, Umtiti, Digne (Mendy 46), Sissoko, Pogba, Mbappe, Griezmann, Matuidi (Coman 46), Giroud (Ben Yedder 72).

Jun11 - Elbasan
Albania 2 (Cikalleshi 66, Ramadani 90+3)
Moldova 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nevalainen (Fin)
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Ismajli, Mavraj, Veseli, Lenjani (Roshi 57), Kace (Qose 84), Ramadani, Abrashi, Sadiku (Cikalleshi 57), Uzuni.
Moldova: Koselev - Jardan (Graur 76), Efros, Armas, Antoniuc, Cebotaru, Carp, Reabciuk, Suvorov (Cociuc 74), Damascan (Boiciuc 70), Ginsari.

Jun11 - Andorra la Vella
Andorra 0
France 4 (Mbappe 11, Ben Yedder 30, Thauvin 45+1, Zouma 60)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 2,800. **Ref:** Jovic (Cro)
Andorra: Gomes - Jesus Rubio, Llovera, Lima, Vales, San Nicolas, A Martinez (Jordi Rubio 58), Rebes, Cervos (Rodriguez 81), Alaez (J Sanchez 85), Vieira.
France: Lloris - Dubois, Zouma, Lenglet, Mendy, Pogba, Ndombele (Sissoko 64), Thauvin (Lemar 81), Griezmann, Mbappe, Ben Yedder (Giroud 73).

Jun11 - Reykjavik
Iceland 2 (R Sigurdsson 21, 32)
Turkey 1 (Dorukhan 40)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 9,680. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
Iceland: Halldorsson - Hermannsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Skulason (Magnusson 69), J Gudmundsson (Traustason 80), Hallfredsson, Gunnarsson, B Bjarnason, Bodvarsson (Sigthorsson 64), G Sigurdsson.
Turkey: Mert - Mehmet Celik, Ayhan, Merih, Kaldirim, Dorukhan (Yalcin 85), Ozan, Karaman (Yusuf 46), Irfan (Abdulkadir 63), Calhanoglu, Burak.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	3	0	1	12	3	9
Turkey	4	3	0	1	9	2	9
Iceland	4	3	0	1	5	5	9
Albania	4	2	0	2	5	3	6
Moldova	4	1	0	3	2	10	3
Andorra	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

Group I

Jun 8 - Brussels
Belgium 3 (Mertens 11, Castagne 14, Lukaku 50)
Kazakhstan 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 37,160. **Ref:** Peljto (Bos)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Kompany (Vermaelen 78), Vertonghen, Castagne, De Bruyne (Tielemans 67), Witsel, T Hazard, Mertens, E Hazard, Lukaku (Batshuayi 72).
Kazakhstan: Nepohodov - Beisebekov, Erlanov, Maliy, Marochkin, Vorogovskiy, Fedin (Aimbetov 66), Pertsukh, Kuat (Tagybergen 78), Zhukov, Zhangylyshbay (Islamkhan 46).

Jun 8 - Saransk
Russia 9 (Cevoli og 25, Dzyuba pen 31, 73, 76, 88, Kudryashov 36, Anton Miranchuk 41, Smolov 77, 83)
San Marino 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 42,241. **Ref:** Al Hakim (Swe)
Russia: Guilherme - Fernandes, Semenov, Dzhikiya, Kudryashov, Ozdoev, Zobnin (Barinov 72), Aleksei Miranchuk (Ionov 60), Golovin, Anton Miranchuk (Smolov 60), Dzyuba.
San Marino: E Benedettini - Manuel Battistini, Cevoli, F Vitaioli, Grandoni, E Golinucci, A Golinucci (Lunadei 64), Mularoni, Rinaldi (Tomassini 56), Palazzi (Censoni 50), M Vitaioli.

Jun 8 - Glasgow
Scotland 2 (Robertson 61, Burke 89)
Cyprus 1 (Kousoulos 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,000. **Ref:** Nilsen (Nor)
Scotland: Marshall - O'Donnell, Mulgrew, McKenna, Robertson, McGinn (McTominay 79), McLean, C McGregor (Armstrong 87), Forrest, Brophy (Burke 73), Fraser.
Cyprus: Pardo - Kousoulos, Laifis, N Ioannou, Artymatas, Makris (Pittas 80), M Ioannou (Georgiou 66), Spoljaric (Kosti 70), Margaca, Sotiriou, Efrem.

Jun11 - Brussels
Belgium 3 (Lukaku 45+1, 57, De Bruyne 90+2)
Scotland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,093. **Ref:** Ardeleanu (CzR)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Kompany (Vermaelen 90), Vertonghen, Meunier, Witsel, Tielemans (Mertens 78), T Hazard (Carrasco 90), De Bruyne, E Hazard, Lukaku.
Scotland: Marshall - O'Donnell, Mulgrew, McKenna, Taylor, Russell (Forrest 67), McTominay, McLean, C McGregor, Burke, Armstrong (Fraser 32).

Jun11 - Nur-Sultan (Astana)
Kazakhstan 4 (Kuat 45+1, Fedin 62, Suyumbayev 65, Islamkhan 79)
San Marino 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Frankowski (Pol)
Kazakhstan: Nepohodov - Erlanov, Maliy, Shomko, Vorogovskiy, Tagybergen, Kuat (Pertsukh 84), Islamkhan, Suyumbayev, Aimbetov (Fedin 58), Turysbek (Zhangylyshbay 70).
San Marino: E Benedettini - Cesarini (Manuel Battistini 76), F Vitaioli, Brolli, Grandoni, Lunadei, Censoni, Mularoni, Michael Battistini (E Golinucci 46), Nanni, M Vitaioli (Bernardi 83).

Jun11 - Nizhny Novgorod
Russia 1 (Ionov 38)
Cyprus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,228. **Ref:** Di Bello (Ita)
Russia: Guilherme - Fernandes, Semenov, Dzhikiya, Kudryashov, Ozdoev, Zobnin (Barinov 78), Ionov (Akhmetov 90+2), Golovin, Anton Miranchuk (Aleksei Miranchuk 63), Dzyuba.
Cyprus: Pardo - Makris (Spoljaric 81), Laifis, N Ioannou, Margaca, Kousoulos, Georgiou (Efrem 46), Artymatas, Kosti, Avraam (Pittas 71), Sotiriou.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	4	0	0	11	1	12
Russia	4	3	0	1	15	3	9
Kazakhstan	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Scotland	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
Cyprus	4	1	0	3	6	5	3
San Marino	4	0	0	4	0	20	0

Group J

Jun 8 - Yerevan
Armenia 3 (Ghazaryan 2, Karapetyan 18, Barseghyan 90+1)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Popov (Bul)
Armenia: Hayrapetyan - Hambardzumyan, Haroyan, Voskanyan, K Hovhannisyan, Mkrtchyan (Grigoryan 76), Avetisyan (Hovsepyan 78), Barseghyan, Mkhitaryan, Ghazaryan, Karapetyan (Babayan 73).
Liechtenstein: Hobi - S Wolfinger (Brandle 85), Malin, Hofer, Goppel, Hasler, Sele (Meier 81), Polverino, Salanovic, Frick (Kuhne 46), Marcel Buchel.

Jun 8 - Tampere
Finland 2 (Pukki 56, 68)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,103. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)
Finland: Hradecky - Granlund (Raitala 38), Toivio, Arajuuri, Uronen, Lod, Sparv, Kamara, Skrabb (Schuller 84), Forsell (Lappalainen 63), Pukki.
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sehic - Bicakcic, Sunjic, Zukanovic, Civic, Besic (Gojak 79), Cimirot, Saric, Visca, Dzeko, Duljevic (Bajic 69).

Jun 8 - Athens
Greece 0
Italy 3 (Barella 23, Insigne 30, Bonucci 33)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 19,828. **Ref:** Taylor (Eng)
Greece: Barkas - Zeca, Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Stafylidis, Siovas, Masouras, Samaris (Bakasetas 77), Kourbelis (Siopis 46), Kolovos (Mavrias 46), Fortounis.
Italy: Sirigu - Florenzi, Bonucci, Chiellini, Emerson (De Sciglio 68), Barella, Jorginho, Verratti (Pellegrini 81), Chiesa, Belotti (Bernardeschi 84), Insigne.

Jun11 - Athens
Greece 2 (Zeca 54, Fortounis 87)
Armenia 3 (Karapetyan 8, Ghazaryan 32, Barseghyan 74)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Tohver (Est)
Greece: Vlachodimos - Mavrias (Kotsiras 17), Papastathopoulos, Siovas, Koutris, Zeca, Samaris (Siopis 75), Masouras, Fortounis, Pelkas (Kolovos 68), Koulouris.
Armenia: Hayrapetyan - Hambardzumyan, Haroyan, Ishkhanyan, K Hovhannisyan, Mkrtchyan (Hovsepyan 55), Grigoryan, Barseghyan, Mkhitaryan, Ghazaryan (Avetisyan 83), Karapetyan (Babayan 70).

Jun11 - Turin
Italy 2 (Insigne 49, Verratti 86)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Dzeko 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,077. **Ref:** Estrada Fernandez (Spa)
Italy: Sirigu - Mancini (De Sciglio 66), Bonucci, Chiellini, Emerson, Barella, Jorginho, Verratti, Bernardeschi (Belotti 80), Quagliarella (Chiesa 46), Insigne.
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sehic - Todorovic, Bicakcic, Zukanovic, Civic (Nastic 71), Besic, Pjanic, Saric, Visca, Gojak (Cimirot 80), Dzeko.

Jun11 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 0
Finland 2 (Pukki 37, Kallman 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,160. **Ref:** Maae (Den)
Liechtenstein: Hobi - S Wolfinger (Brandle 77), Kaufmann, Hofer, Rechsteiner, Wieser (Polverino 46), Sele, Hasler, Marcel Buchel (Martin Buchel 54), Kuhne, Salanovic.
Finland: Hradecky - Raitala (L Vaisanen 87), Toivio, Arajuuri, Uronen, Lod, Sparv (Schuller 61), Kamara, Lappalainen (Soiri 74), Kallman, Pukki.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	4	4	0	0	13	1	12
Finland	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Armenia	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Greece	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Bosnia-Herz	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Liechtenstein	4	0	0	4	0	13	0

Remaining matchdays (all 2019):
Sep 5-7, Sep 8-10, Oct10-12, Oct13-15, Nov14-16, Nov17-19 (teams in groups of 5 will play a total of 8 games each; teams in groups of 6 will play a total of10 games each)

● *The top 2 in each of the10 groups will qualify for the 24-team Euro 2020 (European Championship) finals; the 4 remaining finals places will be taken by the winners of the 4 UEFA Nations League play-off finals (1 for each of the leagues, A, B, C & D)*

COSAFA CUP

Played in South Africa

Group A

May 25 - Umlazi
Eswatini (Swaziland) 2 (N Mamba 30, Badenhorst 73)
Mauritius 2 (Nazira 28, 69)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Alvacao (Moz)

May 27 - Umlazi
Eswatini (Swaziland) 2 (Ndzinisa 25, Badenhorst 50)
Comoros 2 (Bacar 42, I Youssouf 53)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Chutooree (Mrs)

May 29 - Umlazi
Comoros 2 (I Youssouf 48, Soulaimana 65)
Mauritius 1 (Nazira 53)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mdluli (SAf)

COSAFA CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Comoros (Q)	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Eswatini	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Mauritius	2	0	1	1	3	4	1

Group B

May 26 - Umlazi
Mozambique 1 (Witi 77)
Namibia 2 (Kamatuka 69, Iimbondi 82)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Chimene (Zim)

May 26 - Umlazi
Malawi 3 (Mhango 9, Mbulu 49, Phiri 84)
Seychelles 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Nehemia (Nam)

May 28 - Umlazi
Seychelles 0
Mozambique 0
Ref: Adelaid (Com)

May 28 - Umlazi
Namibia 1 (Hambira 16)
Malawi 2 (Mhango 43, Phiri pen 48)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Dungula (Ang)

May 30 - Umlazi
Mozambique 1 (Jeitoso 90+2)
Malawi 1 (Kajoke 32)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Nkole (Zam)

May 30 - KwaMashu
Namibia 3 (Gurirab 19, 26, Urikhob 65)
Seychelles 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Miiro (Uga)

COSAFA CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malawi (Q)	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Namibia	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Mozambique	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Seychelles	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

● *The 2 group winners qualified for the quarter-finals, which Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia & Zimbabwe entered directly*

Quarter-finals

Jun1 - KwaMashu
Lesotho 0
Uganda 0
Ref: Kanoso (Mad)
Lesotho 3-2 on pens

Jun1 - KwaMashu
Zimbabwe 2 (E Rusike 6, Billiat 36)
Comoros 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Mdluli (SAf)

Jun 2 - KwaMashu
South Africa 2 (Singh 19, Margeman 28)
Botswana 2 (Ditsele 61, Ditlhokwe 90+3)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Alvacao (Moz)
Botswana 5-4 on pens

Jun 2 - KwaMashu
Zambia 2 (Muwowo 58, Chabula 89)
Malawi 2 (Mhango 2, Phiri pen 51)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mokete (Les)
Zambia 4-2 on pens

● *The losing quarter-finalists entered the Plate competition (see below)*

Semi-finals

Jun 5 - Durban
Lesotho 1 (Motebang 79)
Botswana 2 (Mogorosi 7, Boy 32)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Chutooree (Mrs)

Jun 5 - Durban
Zimbabwe 0
Zambia 0
Ref: Adelaid (Com)
Zambia 4-2 on pens

3rd-place match

Jun 7 - Durban
Lesotho 2 (Thaba-Ntso 33, Bereng 68)
Zimbabwe 2 (T Rusike 14, Mavunga 61)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Alvacao (Moz)
Zimbabwe 5-4 on pens

Final

Jun 8 - Durban
Botswana 0
Zambia 1 (Kaseba 78)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mdluli (SAf)

PLATE SEMI-FINALS
Jun 4: Uganda 1 South Africa 1 (South Africa 4-2 on pens); Comoros 1 Malawi 2.

PLATE FINAL
Jun 7: South Africa 0 Malawi 0 (aet, South Africa 5-4 on pens).

2022 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS[1]

ASIA SECTION

1st round

1st legs

Jun 6 - Thimphu
Bhutan 1 (T Dorji 35)
Guam 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Al Yacoubi (Oma)

Jun 6 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 2 (Chanthea 81, Sokumpheak 84)
Pakistan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,706. **Ref:** Evans (Aus)

Jun 6 - Vientiane
Laos 0
Bangladesh 1 (Rabiul Hasan 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,572. **Ref:** Ho (HK)

Jun 6 - Zhuhai, China
Macau 1 (Duarte 52)
Sri Lanka 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 901. **Ref:** Kim Dae-yong (SKo)

Jun 6 - Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia 2 (Tsedenbal 9, Naranbold 69)
Brunei 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,685. **Ref:** Banerjee (Ind)

Jun 7 - Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia 7 (Corbin-Ong 12, Shahrel 23, Norshahrul 43, Safawi 45+1, 59, Faiz 78, Akhyar 89)
East Timor 1 (Joao Pedro 52)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 4,244. **Ref:** Kasimov (Uzb)

2nd legs

Jun11 - Dhaka
Bangladesh 0
Laos 0
Att: 7,453. **Ref:** Faizullin (Kyr)
Bangladesh1-0 on agg

Jun11 - Bandar Seri Begawan
Brunei 2 (Razimie 4, 34)
Mongolia 1 (Tsedenbal pen 47)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 17,210. **Ref:** Ibrahim (Jor)
Mongolia 3-2 on agg

Jun11 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia[2]
East Timor 1 (Gama 72)
Malaysia 5 (Shahrel 11, 18, 64, Sumareh 37, Akhyar 55)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 12,776. **Ref:** Araki (Jap)
Malaysia12-2 on agg

Jun11 - Dededo
Guam 5 (Lagutang 23, Cunliffe 27, 82, 90+3, Malcolm 51)
Bhutan 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,029. **Ref:** Yu (Tai)
Guam 5-1 on agg

Jun11 - Doha, Qatar
Pakistan 1 (Bashir pen 18)
Cambodia 2 (Rosib 64, Bunheing 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Hattab (Syr)
Cambodia 4-1 on agg

Jun11 - Colombo
Sri Lanka 3
Macau 0
Awarded result; Macau did not send a team to Colombo, citing safety concerns
Sri Lanka 3-1 on agg

● *The winning teams enter the 2nd round of qualifying*

[1]These games doubled as the1st qualifying round of the 2023 Asian Cup
[2]East Timor played 'home' game in Malaysia due to lack of suitable venue in East Timor

KING'S CUP

Played in Buriram, Thailand

Semi-finals

Jun 5
Curacao 3 (Bonevacia 15, Hooi 17, Bacuna 33)
India 1 (Chhetri pen 31)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Ngamson (Tha)

Jun 5
Thailand 0
Vietnam 1 (Nguyen Anh Duc 90+4)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Iida (Jap)

3rd-place match

Jun 8
India 1 (Thapa 17)
Thailand 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Iida (Jap)

Final

Jun 8
Curacao 1 (Carolina 58)
Vietnam 1 (Pham Duc Huy 83)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jumpaoon (Tha)
Curacao 5-4 on pens

TRI-NATIONS SERIES

Played in Port Vila, Vanuatu

Jun 4
Vanuatu 2 (Bob 22, Kaltack 70)
Tahiti 0
HT: 1-0

Jun 7
Fiji 1 (Radrigai pen 90+1)
Tahiti 1 (Tau 27)
HT: 0-1

Jun10
Vanuatu 0
Fiji 0
Sent off: Drudru, Sami (both Fiji)

TRI-NATIONS SERIES – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vanuatu (C)	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Fiji	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Tahiti	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

FRIENDLIES

Tuesday, May 28

May 28 - Vientiane
Laos 2 (Champathong 86, Douangmaity 87)
Sri Lanka 1 (Aakib 11)
HT: 0-1

Thursday, May 30

May 30 - Antalya
Turkey 2 (Cengiz Under 11, Karaman 17)
Greece 1 (Kourbelis 90+3)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Petrescu (Rom)
Turkey: Ugurcan - Sangare, Ayhan, Caglar, Cengiz Umut, Okay (Mahmut 61), Ozan (Ozyakup 46), Cengiz Under (Emre Belozoglu 80), Yusuf (Irfan 46), Tosun (Yalcin 55), Karaman (Abdulkadir 46).
Greece: Paschalakis - Mavrias (Kotsiras 73), Kourbelis, Valerianos (Bouchalakis 54), Koutris (Stafylidis 46), Masouras (Durmishaj 65), Samaris, Siopis (Mantalos 75), Pelkas (Kolovos 46), Koulouris, Fortounis.

Friday, May 31

May 31 - Vientiane
Laos 2 (Vongchiengkham pen 83, 90+2)
Sri Lanka 2 (Vongsa og 50, Aakib 69)
HT: 0-0
Sent off: Aakib (Sri Lanka) 79

Saturday, June 1

Jun1 - Miami, USA
Venezuela 1 (Rosales pen 38)
Ecuador 1 (E Valencia 90+1)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,021. **Ref:** Herrera (CR)

Sunday, June 2

Jun 2 - Washington DC, USA
El Salvador 1 (Rugamas 76)
Haiti 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vergara (Pan)

Jun 2 - Nantes
France 2 (Lemar 5, Griezmann 43)
Bolivia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,228. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
France: Areola - Pavard (Dubois 46), Varane, Umtiti (Zouma 89), Digne (Mendy 79), Pogba, Ndombele (Matuidi 67), Thauvin, Griezmann, Lemar (Coman 67), Mbappe (Ben Yedder 46).
Bolivia: Lampe - D Bejarano (Torres 85), Haquin, Jusino (Carrasco 89), M Bejarano, Chumacero (Wayar 81), Justiniano, Galindo (Saucedo 46), Saavedra (Fernandez 67), Castro (H Vaca 73), Martins Moreno.

Jun 2 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 3 (V Thill 2, Selimovic 90+1, Jans 90+2)
Madagascar 3 (Voavy 35, Andriatsima pen 37, Andriamatsinoro 62)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Doyle (RoI)

Jun 2 - Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia 2 (Safawi pen 51, Shahrul 82)
Nepal 0
HT: 0-0

Jun 2 - Alanya
Turkey 2 (Mehmet Celik 17, 57)
Uzbekistan 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jovanovic (Ser)
Turkey: Bolat - Mehmet Celik, Merih, Caglar, Emre Tasdemir, Ozyakup (Abdulkadir 65), Dorukhan (Turuc 82), Irfan (Emre Belozoglu 90+1), Efecan (Omer Sahiner 46), Enes (Ozan 66), Malli (Karaman 46).
Uzbekistan: Suyunov - Khashimov, Krimets, Ismailov, Sayfiyev, Musayev (Urunov 60), Ruziyev (Ibragimov 71), Khamrobekov, Akhmedov, Masharipov, Shomurodov (Abdukholikov 71).

Monday, June 3
Jun 3 - Bogota
Colombia 3 (Tesillo 6, Muriel 38, Falcao pen 45)
Panama 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Quiroz (Ecu)
Colombia: Ospina (Montero 77) - Arias (Medina 60), C Zapata, Lucumi, Tesillo, Cuadrado (Lerma 46), Barrios, Cardona, Muriel (Diaz 46), Falcao (D Zapata 46), Martinez (Rodriguez 65).
Panama: Calderon - Machado (Gondola 78), Vargas (Fajardo 67), Escobar, Davis (Galvan 56), Arroyo, Cooper (Sanchez 46), Carrasquilla, Rodriguez, Blackburn (Pimentel 46), G Torres (Blackman 56).

Wednesday, June 5
Jun 5 - Brasilia
Brazil 2 (Richarlison 16, Gabriel Jesus 24)
Qatar 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)
Brazil: Ederson - Daniel Alves (Eder Militao 81), Marquinhos, Miranda, Filipe Luis (Alex Sandro 76), Casemiro, Arthur (Fernandinho 66), Philippe Coutinho (Lucas Paqueta 68), Richarlison (David Neres 63), Gabriel Jesus, Neymar (Everton 21).
Qatar: Al Sheeb - Pedro Miguel, Al Hajri, Khoukhi, Salman, A Hassan (Ali Afif 84), Hatem (Al Ahrak 87), Madibo, Al Haidos (Moein 78), Almoez Ali, Akram Afif (Alaaeldin 88).

Jun 5 - Toyota
Japan 0
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Att: 38,507. **Ref:** Zhang (Chn)
Japan: Schmidt - Tomiyasu, Shoji, Hatanaka, H Sakai (Muroya 62), Shibasaki, Morita (Kobayashi 61), Nagatomo (Haraguchi 79), Doan (J Ito 71), Y Osako, Nakajima (Minamino 71).
Trinidad & Tobago: Phillip - M Williams, Cyrus, Mitchell (Gonzales 90), A Jones (Humphrey 68), George, Lewis (Muckette 78), Paul, Hyland (Hackshaw 84), J Williams (J Garcia 86), L Garcia (Peltier 71).

Jun 5 - Atlanta, USA
Mexico 3 (Alvarado 32, Pizarro 54, Guardado 76)
Venezuela 1 (Murillo 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Unkel (USA)
Mexico: Orozco - Navarro (Sanchez 68), Araujo, Reyes, Gallardo, Alvarez (Moreno 31), Alvarado (Antuna 68), C Rodriguez, Gutierrez (Guardado 68), Pizarro (Pineda 55), Jimenez (Vega 82).
Venezuela: Farinez - Hernandez, Osorio, Villanueva, Rosales, Moreno, Herrera (Anor 60), Murillo (Penaranda 75; Aristeguieta 86), Rincon, Machis (Savarino 46), Rondon (Martinez 46).

Jun 5 - Ciudad del Este
Paraguay 1 (Cardozo pen 16)
Honduras 1 (M Figueroa 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chl)

Jun 5 - Lima
Peru 1 (Cueva 53)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Arg)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula (Corzo 75), Araujo, Abram, Trauco, Tapia (Santamaria 81), Gonzales (Callens 88), Carrillo (Polo 68), Cueva (Hurtado 72), Flores (Guerrero 46), Ruidiaz.
Costa Rica: Moreira - Gamboa, Waston, Duarte, Oviedo, Bolanos (Aguilar 65), Leal (Matarrita 80), Borges, Marin (Allan Cruz 65), George (Saborio 73), Campbell (McDonald 74).

Jun 5 - Washington DC
United States 0
Jamaica 1 (Nicholson 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,719. **Ref:** Ward (SKN)
United States: Steffen - Miazga (Carter-Vickers 72), O Gonzalez, Ream (Lima 59), Arriola (Gyau 72), Trapp, Yueill (Amon 59), Robinson (Lovitz 80), Roldan (Holmes 66), Sargent, Mihailovic.
Jamaica: Blake - Powell, Lowe, Francis, Lawrence, Lambert (Williams 64), Hector (Lewis 51), Foster (Nicholson 55), Vassell (Magee 77), Brown (Marshall 64), Orgill (Mattocks 85).

Thursday, June 6
Jun 6 - Hamilton
Bermuda 1 (Brangman 37)
Guyana 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Morrison (Jam)

Jun 6 - La Serena
Chile 2 (Vargas 69, Fuenzalida 71)
Haiti 1 (Pierrot 26)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Marques (Bra)
Chile: Cortes (Arias 46) - Isla (Opazo 67), Medel, Maripan (Diaz 46), Beausejour, Aranguiz (Valdes 88), Pavez (Pulgar 46), Fuenzalida, Vidal, Vargas, Castillo (Hernandez 46).
Haiti: Placide - Arcus, Ade, Jerome, Guerrier (Charles 88), Saba (Jean-Baptiste 63), Alceus, Etienne (Cantave 74), Bazile (Herivaux 67), Nazon (Desire 72), Pierrot (Christian 60).

Jun 6 - Tehran
Iran 5 (Jahanbakhsh 30, Taremi 37, 57, 77, Sayyadmanesh 89)
Syria 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)

Jun 6 - Gaoxiong
Taiwan 1 (Wu Chun-ching 39)
Nepal 1 (Rijal 69)
HT: 1-0

Friday, June 7
Jun 7 - SanJuan
Argentina 5 (Messi 37, 38, Lautaro Martinez 63, 74, Pereyra 81)
Nicaragua 1 (Barrera pen 90+1)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,250. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chl)
Argentina: Armani - Saravia, Foyth (Funes Mori 73), Otamendi, Acuna (De Paul 62), Rodriguez (Tagliafico 56), Paredes, Lo Celso, Messi (Dybala 46), Suarez (Pereyra 57), Aguero (Lautaro Martinez 46).
Nicaragua: Lorente (Maradiaga 46) - Quijano, Montenegro (O Lopez 46), Copete, Rosas, M Lopez, Punyed (Cadena 59), Barrera, Bonilla (Gkoufas 63), Chavarria (Galeano 46), Betancur (Flores 82).

Jun 7 - Guangzhou
China 2 (Wu Xi 14, Zhang Xizhe 54)
Philippines 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,836. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
Sent off: Sato (Philippines) 69

Jun 7 - Marrakech, Morocco
Gambia 1 (Sohna 44)
Guinea 0
HT: 1-0

Jun 7 - Boulogne, France
Ivory Coast 3 (Bony 39, 58, Abdallah og 90)
Comoros 1 (M'Changama pen 90+3)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mokhtari (Fra)

Jun 7 - Bondoufle, France
Kenya 1 (Wanyama pen 62)
Madagascar 0
HT: 0-0

Jun 7 - Trnava
Slovakia 5 (Haraslin 50, Chrien 55, Gregus pen 71, Mraz 74, Mihalik 84)
Jordan 1 (Al Tamari 39)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,454. **Ref:** Musial (Pol)

Jun 7 - Busan
South Korea 1 (Hwang Ui-jo 76)
Australia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 52,213. **Ref:** Tojo (Jap)
South Korea: Kim Seung-gyu - Kim Min-jae, Kim Young-gwon, Kwon Kyung-won, Kim Moon-hwan, Ju Se-jong, Hwang In-beom, Kim Jin-su (Hong Chul 73), Lee Jae-sung (Na Sang-ho 73), Son Heung-min, Hwang Hee-chan (Hwang Ui-jo 67).
Australia: Redmayne - Grant, Wright, Jurman (Spiranovic 77), Behich (Smith 77), Amini, Jeggo, O'Neill (Petratos 84), Mabil (Borrello 70), Duke (Taggart 62), Goodwin (Ryan Williams 73).

Jun 7 - Dushanbe
Tajikistan 1 (Samiev 88)
Afghanistan 1 (Haydary 72)
HT: 0-0

Jun 7 - Rades
Tunisia 2 (Khazri 4, Srarfi 29)
Iraq 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,500

Jun 7 - Montevideo
Uruguay 3 (Gomez 19, L Suarez 69, Valverde 79)
Panama 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mereles (Par)
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres, Gimenez, Godin, Laxalt, Nandez (Pereiro 75), Bentancur (Torreira 56), Vecino (Valverde 46), Lodeiro (Cavani 64), De Arrascaeta (Rodriguez 75), Gomez (L Suarez 64).
Panama: Mejia - Murillo, R Torres, Cummings, Escobar (Machado 72), Galvan (Palacios 86), Sanchez (Rodriguez 82), Pimentel, Godoy, Quintero (Blackburn 86), Fajardo (Arroyo 72).

Jun 7 - Tashkent
Uzbekistan 4 (Ahmedov pen 27, Abdukholiqov 65, Sergeev 68, Tursunov 90+2)
North Korea 0
HT: 1-0

Saturday, June 8
Jun 8 - Penafiel, Portugal
Angola 2 (Evandro Brandao 71, Mabululu 72)
Guinea-Bissau 0
HT: 0-0

Jun 8 - Asaba
Nigeria 0
Zimbabwe 0
Att: 15,650. **Ref:** Ligali (Ben)

Jun 8 - Singapore
Singapore 4 (Faris 4, Shahdan 67, Quak 77, Hariss 85)
Solomon Islands 3 (Feni 48, Abba 58, Totori 75)
HT: 1-0

Sunday, June 9
Jun 9 - Porto Alegre
Brazil 7 (Gabriel Jesus 6, 47, Thiago Silva 13, Philippe Coutinho pen 37, David Neres 56, Roberto Firmino 65, Richarlison 70)
Honduras 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 16,521. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos (Eder Militao 46), Thiago Silva (Miranda 77), Filipe Luis, Arthur (Allan 32), Casemiro (Fernandinho 46), Richarlison, Philippe Coutinho (Everton 66), David Neres, Gabriel Jesus (Roberto Firmino 55).
Honduras: L Lopez - Crisanto, H Figueroa, M Figueroa, Izaguirre (Alvarado 80), Elis, Acosta (Chirinos 46), Garrido (Castellanos 72), A Lopez (Beckeles73), Quioto, Rojas (Alvarez 46). *Sent off: Quioto 29.*

Jun 9 - Majadahonda, Spain
Cameroon 2 (Ntep 3, Tagueu 72)
Zambia 1 (Musonda 77)
HT: 1-0

Jun 9 - Marbella, Spain
DR Congo 0
Burkina Faso 0

Jun 9 - Dubai, UAE
Ghana 0
Namibia 1 (Starke 31)
HT: 0-1

Jun 9 - Rifu
Japan 2 (Nagai 19, 41)
El Salvador 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,092. **Ref:** Ma (Chn)
Japan: Schmidt - Tomiyasu, Shoji, Hatanaka (Yamanaka 59), J Ito (Muroya 59), Hashimoto, Kobayashi (Shibasaki 80), Haraguchi (Nakajima 67), Doan, Minamino (Kubo 67), Nagai (Y Osako 59).
El Salvador: Hernandez - Tamacas (Garcia 90+3), Dominguez, Mancia, Jimenez, Orellana (Mayen 81), O Ceren (Ortiz 87), D Ceren, Monterroza (Flores 46), Alas (Portillo 50), Bonilla (Rugamas 71).

Jun 9 - Arlington, USA
Mexico 3 (J Dos Santos 28, L Montes 63, L Rodriguez 77)
Ecuador 2 (Mena 47, Ayrton Preciado 66)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 59,000. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)
Mexico: Ochoa - L Rodriguez, C Montes, Moreno (Salcedo 35), Sanchez (Gallardo 46), J Dos Santos, Guardado, L Montes (Reyes 64), Antuna (Pizarro 72), Jimenez (Vega 61), Pineda (Alvarado 72).
Ecuador: Banguera - Quintero (Velasco 46), Mina, Arboleda, Caicedo, Gruezo (Orejuela 46; Ramirez 54), Renato Ibarra (A Valencia 46), Intriago, Mendez (Mena 46), Ayrton Preciado (Romario Ibarra 89), E Valencia.

Jun 9 - Asuncion
Paraguay 2 (Gomez 48, Gonzalez pen 76)
Guatemala 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Toski Marques (Bra)

Jun 9 - Lima
Peru 0
Colombia 3 (Uribe 23, 65, D Zapata 90+4)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ferreyra (Uru)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula (Corzo 88), Araujo, Abram, Trauco, Tapia (Pretell 67), Yotun, Carrillo (Ruidiaz 62), Cueva (Polo 67), Gonzales, Guerrero (Hurtado 70). *Sent off: Yotun 56.*
Colombia: Ospina - Medina (Arias 69), Mina, D Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado (Cardona 46), Cuellar (Barrios 66), Uribe, Rodriguez (Diaz 74), Falcao (D Zapata 46), Muriel (Martinez 46).

Jun 9 - Abu Dhabi, UAE
Turkmenistan 0
Uganda 0

Jun 9 - Cincinnati
United States 0
Venezuela 3 (Rondon 16, 36, Savarino 30)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 23,955. **Ref:** Lopez (Gtm)
United States: Steffen - Lima, Miazga, Long (Zimmerman 46), Ream (Lovitz 78), Trapp, Boyd (Morris 62), Roldan, McKennie (Holmes 62), Arriola, Zardes (Altidore 46).
Venezuela: Farinez - Rosales (Hernandez 46), Chancellor, Villanueva, Mago, Savarino (Anor 65), Herrera (Figuera 89), Moreno, Rincon (Martinez 61), Murillo (Machis 66), Rondon (Seijas 79).

Monday, June 10
Jun10 - Fullerton, USA
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Canada 2 (Arfield 5, 90)
HT: 0-1

Tuesday, June 11
Jun11 - Doha, Qatar
Algeria 1 (Bounedjah 67)
Burundi 1 (Fiston 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)

Jun11 - Guangzhou
China 1 (Yang Xu 10)
Tajikistan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,931. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)

Jun11 - Varazdin
Croatia 1 (Petkovic 47)
Tunisia 2 (Badri 16, Sliti pen 70)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,036. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)
Croatia: Sluga - Vida, Lovren (Bartolec 46), Benkovic, Badelj (Brozovic 55), Brekalo (Halilovic 58), Pasalic (Modric 70), Kovacic (Perisic 55), Melnjak, Kramaric (Caktas 63), Petkovic.
Tunisia: Hassen - Bedoui, Bronn, Meriah, Haddadi, Kechrida, Chaalali (Sassi 77), Msakni (Sliti 62), Skhiri (Maaloul 90), Badri (Drager 64), Khazri (Khenissi 83).

Jun11 - Marrakech, Morocco
Guinea 0
Benin 1 (Sessegnon 31)
HT: 0-1

Jun11 - Turrucares, Costa Rica
Guyana 1 (K Marsh-Brown 81)
Haiti 3 (Jerome pen 8, Guerrier 29, Desire 61)
HT: 0-2

Jun11 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 0
Taiwan 2 (Chen Hao-wei 34, 45+3)
HT: 0-2

Jun11 - Amman
Jordan 4 (Faisal 23, Ersan 42, Al Rawashdeh 63, Al Dardour 79)
Indonesia 1 (Beto pen 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Ali (Leb)

Jun11 - Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan 2 (Rustamov 31, Sagynbaev 49)
Palestine 2 (Seyam 57, Bahdari pen 88)
HT: 1-0

Jun11 - Singapore
Singapore 1 (Quak 24)
Myanmar 2 (Kyaw Ko Ko 5, 68)
HT: 1-1

Jun11 - Seoul
South Korea 1 (Hwang Ui-jo 57)
Iran 1 (Kim Young-gwon og 62)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sato (Jap)
South Korea: Cho Hyun-woo - Lee Yong, Kim Min-jae, Kim Young-gwon, Hong Chul, Paik Seung-ho (Ju Se-jong 78), Lee Jae-sung (Hwang Hee-chan 68), Hwang In-beom, Na Sang-ho (Lee Seung-woo 76), Hwang Ui-jo (Lee Jeong-hyeop 83), Son Heung-min.
Iran: Beiranvand - Rezaeian, Pouraliganji, Kanaani, Mohammadi, Ebrahimi, Hajsafi (Ezatolahi 77), Jahanbakhsh (Nourollahi 46), Taremi (Shojaei 90+1), Torabi (Amiri 62), Ansarifard (Alipour 80).

Jun11 - Tashkent
Uzbekistan 2 (Shomurodov 3, 42)
Syria 0
HT: 2-0

Wednesday, June 12
Jun12 - Marrakech
Morocco 0
Gambia 1 (Barrow 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Traore (Mli)

Thursday, June 13
Jun13 - Borg El Arab
Egypt 1 (Elmohamady 64)
Tanzania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Adel (Egy)

Friday, June 14
Jun14 - Doha, Qatar
Cameroon 1 (Toko Ekambi 45+2)
Mali 1 (Kone 22)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Al Alili (UAE)

Jun14 - Marrakech, Morocco
Mauritania 3 (M Diaw 42, Adama Ba 54, Diakite 90)
Madagascar 1 (Raveloson 31)
HT: 1-1

Saturday, June 15
Jun15 - Dubai, UAE
Ghana 0
South Africa 0
Att: 235

Jun15 - Jakarta
Indonesia 6 (Beto 2, 48, 61, 65, Evan 19, 74)
Vanuatu 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Nurcahya (Ins)

Jun15 - Abu Dhabi, UAE
Ivory Coast 0
Uganda 1 (Miya pen 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 600. **Ref:** Al Marzouqi (UAE)

Jun15 - Madrid, Spain
Kenya 1 (Olunga 25)
DR Congo 1 (Masuaku 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 125

Sunday, June 16
Jun16 - Doha, Qatar
Algeria 3 (Bounedjah 40, Belaili pen 70, Delort 80)
Mali 2 (Diaby pen 19, Sacko 68)
HT: 1-1

Jun16 - Borg El Arab
Egypt 3 (Mohsen 11, Ali 78, Gaber 87)
Guinea 1 (Kaba 64)
HT: 1-0

Jun16 - Marrakech
Morocco 2 (Ziyech 24, pen 54)
Zambia 3 (Musonda 2, Kangwa 43, Mwepu 73)
HT: 1-2

Jun16 - Ismailia, Egypt
Senegal 1 (Gueye 30)
Nigeria 0
HT: 1-0

Jun16 - Cairo, Egypt
Tanzania 1 (Samatta)
Zimbabwe 1 (Mutizwa)
HT: 0-1

Monday, June 17
Jun17 - Rades
Tunisia 2 (Khenissi 66, Sliti 90+3)
Burundi 1 (Amissi 76)
HT: 0-0

Tuesday, June 18
Jun18 - Marrakech, Morocco
Benin 3 (Mounie 42, 61, 81)
Mauritania 1 (El Hacen pen 47)
HT: 1-0

Wednesday, June 19
Jun19 - Abu Dhabi, UAE
Ivory Coast 4 (Kodjia 29, Seri 41, Cornet 57, Bony 84)
Zambia 1 (Sakala pen 14)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 50. **Ref:** Al Junaibi (UAE)

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP
Played in Poland

Group A
May 23: Tahiti 0 Senegal 3; Poland 0 Colombia 2.
May 26: Senegal 2 Colombia 0; Poland 5 Tahiti 0.
May 29: Colombia 6 Tahiti 0; Senegal 0 Poland 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal (Q)	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Colombia (Q)	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Poland (Q)	3	1	1	1	5	2	4
Tahiti	3	0	0	3	0	14	0

Group B
May 23: Mexico 1 Italy 2; Japan 1 Ecuador 1.
May 26: Mexico 0 Japan 3; Ecuador 0 Italy 1.
May 29: Ecuador 1 Mexico 0; Italy 0 Japan 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy (Q)	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Japan (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
Ecuador (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Mexico	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Group C
May 24: Honduras 0 New Zealand 5; Uruguay 3 Norway 1.
May 27: Honduras 0 Uruguay 2; Norway 0 New Zealand 2.
May 30: New Zealand 0 Uruguay 2; Norway 12 Honduras 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay (Q)	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
N Zealand (Q)	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Norway	3	1	0	2	13	5	3
Honduras	3	0	0	3	0	19	0

Group D
May 24: Qatar 0 Nigeria 4; Ukraine 2 United States 1.
May 27: Qatar 0 Ukraine 1; United States 2 Nigeria 0.
May 30: Nigeria 1 Ukraine 1; United States 1 Qatar 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
USA (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Nigeria (Q)	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Qatar	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

Group E
May 25: France 2 Saudi Arabia 0; Panama 1 Mali 1.
May 28: Panama 0 France 2; Saudi Arabia 3 Mali 4.
May 31: Mali 2 France 3; Saudi Arabia 1 Panama 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France (Q)	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Mali (Q)	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Panama (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	4	8	0

Group F
May 25: Portugal 1 South Korea 0; Argentina 5 South Africa 2.
May 28: Portugal 0 Argentina 2; South Africa 0 South Korea 1.
May 31: South Korea 2 Argentina 1; South Africa 1 Portugal 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina (Q)	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Sth Korea (Q)	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Portugal	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
South Africa	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

● *The top 2 in each group and the 4 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for the round of16*

Round of 16
Jun 2: Italy 1 Poland 0; Colombia 1 New Zealand 1 (aet, Colombia 5-4 on pens).
Jun 3: Uruguay 1 Ecuador 3; Ukraine 4 Panama 1; Senegal 2 Nigeria 1.
Jun 4: Japan 0 South Korea 1; France 2 United States 3; Argentina 2 Mali 2 (aet, Mali 5-4 on pens).

Quarter-finals
Jun 7: Colombia 0 Ukraine 1; Italy 4 Mali 2.
Jun 8: United States 1 Ecuador 2; South Korea 3 Senegal 3 (aet, South Korea 3-2 on pens).

Semi-finals
Jun 11: Ukraine 1 Italy 0; Ecuador 0 South Korea 1.

3rd-place match
Jun 14: Italy 0 Ecuador 1 (aet).

Final
Jun15 - Lodz
Ukraine 3 (Supriaha 34, 53, Tsitaishvili 89)
South Korea 1 (Lee Kang-in pen 5)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,344. **Ref:** Elfath (USA)
Ukraine: Lunin - Konoplia, Safronov, Bondar, Beskorovainyi, Korniienko, Tsitaishvili, Khakhlov (Chekh 56), Dryshliuk, Buletsa (Kashchuk 88), Supriaha (Sikan 63).
South Korea: Lee Gwang-yeon - Hwang Tae-hyeon, Lee Ji-sol, Kim Hyun-woo, Lee Jae-ik, Choi Jun (Lee Kyu-hyuk 80), Kim Se-yun (Um Won-sang 46), Kim Jung-min, Cho Young-wook (Jeon Se-jin 63), Lee Kang-in, Oh Se-hun.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
Played in France

Group A
Jun 7: France 4 South Korea 0.
Jun 8: Norway 3 Nigeria 0.
Jun 12: Nigeria 2 South Korea 0; France 2 Norway 1.
Jun 17: Nigeria 0 France 1; South Korea 1 Norway 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France (Q)	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Norway (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Nigeria (Q)	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
South Korea	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

Group B
Jun 8: Germany 1 China 0; Spain 3 South Africa 1.
Jun 12: Germany 1 Spain 0.
Jun 13: South Africa 0 China 1.
Jun 17: China 0 Spain 0; South Africa 0 Germany 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Spain (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
China (Q)	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
South Africa	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

Group C
Jun 9: Australia 1 Italy 2; Brazil 3 Jamaica 0.
Jun 13: Australia 3 Brazil 2.
Jun 14: Jamaica 0 Italy 5.
Jun 18: Jamaica 1 Australia 4; Italy 0 Brazil 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy (Q)	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Australia (Q)	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Brazil (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group D
Jun 9: England 2 Scotland 1.
Jun 10: Argentina 0 Japan 0.
Jun 14: Japan 2 Scotland 1; England 1 Argentina 0.
Jun 19: Japan 0 England 2; Scotland 3 Argentina 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England (Q)	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Japan (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Argentina	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Scotland	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

Group E
Jun 10: Canada 1 Cameroon 0.
Jun 11: New Zealand 0 Holland 1.
Jun 15: Holland 3 Cameroon 1; Canada 2 New Zealand 0.
Jun 20: Cameroon 2 New Zealand 1; Holland 2 Canada 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Canada (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Cameroon (Q)	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
New Zealand	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

Group F
Jun 11: Chile 0 Sweden 2; United States 13 Thailand 0.
Jun 16: Sweden 5 Thailand 1; United States 3 Chile 0.
Jun 20: Sweden 0 United States 2; Thailand 0 Chile 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA (Q)	3	3	0	0	18	0	9
Sweden (Q)	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Chile	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Thailand	3	0	0	3	1	20	0

● *The top 2 in each group and the 4 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for the round of16*

Round of 16
Jun 22: Germany 3 Nigeria 0; Norway 1 Australia 1 (aet, Norway 4-1 on pens).
Jun 23: England 3 Cameroon 0; France 2 Brazil 1 (aet).
Jun 24: Spain 1 United States 2; Sweden 1 Canada 0.
Jun 25: Italy 2 China 0; Holland 2 Japan 1.

Quarter-finals
Jun 27 - Le Havre
Norway 0
England 3 (Scott 3, White 40, Bronze 57)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 21,111. **Ref:** Venegas (Mex)

Jun 28 - Paris
France 1 (Renard 81)
United States 2 (Rapinoe 5, 65)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,595. **Ref:** Monzul (Ukr)

Jun 29 - Valenciennes
Italy 0
Holland 2 (Miedema 70, Van der Gragt 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,600. **Ref:** Umpierrez (Uru)

Jun 29 - Rennes
Germany 1 (Magull 16)
Sweden 2 (Jakobsson 22, Blackstenius 48)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,301. **Ref:** Frappart (Fra)

Semi-finals
Jul 2 - Lyon
England 1 (White 19)
United States 2 (Press 10, Morgan 31)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 53,512. **Ref:** Batista (Bra)
Sent off: Bright (England) 86

Jul 3 - Lyon
Holland 1 (Groenen 99)
Sweden 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 48,452.
Ref: Beaudoin (Can)

3rd-place match
Jul 6 - Nice
England 1 (Kirby 31)
Sweden 2 (Asllani 11, Jakobsson 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 20,316. **Ref:** Pustovoitova (Rus)

Final
Jul 7 - Lyon
United States 2 (Rapinoe pen 61, Lavelle 69)
Holland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 57,900. **Ref:** Frappart (Fra)
United States: Naeher - O'Hara (Krieger 46), Dahlkemper, Sauerbrunn, Dunn, Lavelle, Ertz, Mewis, Heath (Lloyd 87), Morgan, Rapinoe (Press 79).
Holland: Van Veenendaal - Van Lunteren, Dekker (Van de Sanden 73), Van der Gragt, Bloodworth, Groenen, Spitse, Van de Donk, Miedema, Martens (Roord 70), Beerensteyn.

Club football

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rahimo (C)	30	17	6	7	37	20	57
Salitas	30	16	7	7	38	19	55
Forces Armees	30	13	9	8	31	22	48
ASECK	30	12	9	9	29	21	45
RC Kadiogo	30	11	12	7	28	20	45
Sonabel	30	11	10	9	28	25	43
Majestic	30	10	13	7	25	22	43
RC Bobo	30	11	7	12	35	33	40
Douanes	30	9	11	10	23	27	38
ASF Bobo	30	9	10	11	33	33	37
ASFA Yen'ga	30	9	10	11	30	30	37
US Ouagad'ou	30	9	8	13	22	34	35
Etoile Filante	30	8	10	12	30	28	34
Police	30	8	10	12	18	25	34
Comoe (R)	30	8	10	12	26	42	34
AJEB (R)	30	3	10	17	14	46	19

CAMEROON

2019 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UMS Loum (C)	5	3	1	1	4	1	10
Coton Sport	5	2	3	0	6	3	9
Feutcheu	5	2	0	3	4	4	6
APEJES Acad	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Dragon	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Stade Renard	5	1	1	3	3	7	4

DJIBOUTI

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port (C)	18	12	4	2	51	20	40
Universite	18	11	6	1	38	14	39
Ali Sabieh	18	11	5	2	49	15	38
Dikhil	18	9	5	4	34	21	32
Arta/Solar	18	8	6	4	31	17	30
Hayabley	18	6	4	8	30	37	22
Garde Rep	18	6	3	9	45	33	21
Gendarmerie	18	6	3	9	32	24	21
Jago/Mairie (R)	18	2	1	15	17	79	7
Kartileh (R)	18	0	1	17	12	79	1

GABON

2019 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cercle Mberi (C)	5	4	1	0	4	0	13
Pelican	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Stade Mandji	5	2	1	2	3	3	7
Akanda	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Mangasport	5	0	4	1	3	4	4
Bitam	5	0	1	4	3	8	1

MOROCCO

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wydad C (C)	30	17	8	5	56	30	59
Raja C	30	15	10	5	56	36	55
Hassania	30	12	9	9	30	22	45
Olympic Safi	30	12	9	9	37	38	45
Ittihad T	30	9	13	8	27	30	40
Youssoufia	30	10	9	11	36	37	39
RSB	30	8	15	7	34	34	39
Difaa	30	9	12	9	30	32	39
FUS	30	8	14	8	25	25	38
Rapide	30	7	16	7	28	31	37
Olympique K	30	8	12	10	38	42	36
Mouloudia	30	8	11	11	31	38	35
Moghreb	30	8	10	12	29	32	34
FAR	30	7	12	11	32	32	33
Kawkab (R)	30	7	9	14	34	40	30
Chabab RH (R)	30	6	9	15	27	51	27

NIGERIA

2019 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enyimba (C)	5	4	0	1	10	4	12
Kano Pillars	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
Enugu Rangers	5	2	2	1	10	8	8
Akwa United	5	1	3	1	7	9	6
Lobi Stars	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
Ifeanyi Ubah	5	0	0	5	6	14	0

TOGO

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ASC Kara (C)	26	14	5	7	33	18	47
Maranatha	26	11	7	8	23	25	40
Gomido	26	9	13	4	24	15	40
Dynamic Tog's	26	10	9	7	23	18	39
Anges	26	11	6	9	23	23	39
Sara Sport	26	9	9	8	20	21	36
OTR	26	9	8	9	27	28	35
Koroki	26	9	8	9	23	23	35
Togo Port	26	10	4	12	31	31	34
ASKO	26	8	10	8	26	26	34
Semassi	26	9	6	11	26	28	33
Gbohloe-su	26	8	8	10	17	18	32
Gbikinti (R)	26	6	9	11	25	33	27
Foadan (R)	26	4	8	14	19	33	20

TUNISIA

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance T (C)	26	17	5	4	37	15	56
Etoile Sahel	26	15	9	2	40	17	54
CS Sfaxien	26	14	10	2	34	15	52
Ben Guerdane	26	10	8	8	22	21	38
Club Africain	26	11	4	11	22	24	37
CA Bizertin[1]	26	10	8	8	31	27	35
US Monastir	26	8	7	11	30	30	31
US Tataouine	26	7	10	9	30	39	31
ES Metlaoui	26	7	9	10	22	26	30
Std Tunisien	26	7	7	12	27	36	28
JS Kairouan	26	6	8	12	20	32	26
Hammam-Lif	26	5	10	11	17	23	25
S Gabesien[1] (R)	26	6	8	12	22	30	23
AS Gabes (R)	26	4	7	15	23	42	19

[1]3pts deducted

SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

2019 Apertura Final

1st leg - Jun 8; 2nd leg - Jun12

Junior v Deportivo Pasto

1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1, Junior 5-4 on pens)

PERU

2019 – APERTURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Binacional (Q)	17	12	0	5	44	23	36
Sp Cristal	17	9	5	3	28	13	32
U Cesar Vallejo	17	9	2	6	25	21	29
Dep Municipal[1]	17	7	7	3	27	20	27
Alianza Lima	17	7	5	5	30	24	26
Real Garcilaso	17	7	5	5	19	15	26
Ayacucho	17	7	4	6	26	23	25
UT Cajamarca	17	6	7	4	26	24	25
Ac Cantolao	17	6	7	4	18	17	25
Sp Huancayo	17	6	6	5	22	23	24
Melgar	17	6	5	6	26	25	23
Universitario	17	6	5	6	25	27	23
Alianza Univ	17	5	7	5	18	18	22
C Mannucci	17	4	4	9	22	27	16
U Comercio	17	3	6	8	15	21	15
U San Martin	17	3	6	8	13	32	15
Pirata[1]	17	3	5	9	17	29	13
Sport Boys	17	2	4	11	9	28	10

As winners, Deportivo Binacional have qualified for the 2019 overall championship play-offs

[1] 1pt deducted

ASIA

GUAM

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NAPA Rvrs (C)	21	19	2	0	130	27	59
Strykers	21	16	2	3	106	37	50
Manhoben L'hi	21	13	3	5	78	43	42
Islanders	21	8	1	12	51	56	25
LOA Heat	21	7	3	11	48	86	24
Quality Distrib	21	6	1	14	37	90	19
Sidekicks	21	5	3	13	26	54	18
Shipyard	21	2	1	18	32	115	7

SYRIA

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Jaish (C)	26	16	6	4	57	17	54
Tishreen	26	15	8	3	31	14	53
Al Wahda	26	13	10	3	30	13	49
Al Ittihad	26	11	9	6	31	25	42
Al Wathba	26	9	12	5	39	25	39
Al Taliya	26	10	9	7	27	25	39
Hutteen	26	8	10	8	23	24	34
Al Karama	26	9	5	12	30	36	32
Al Shorta	26	7	10	9	24	26	31
Al Sahel	26	7	9	10	22	30	30
Nawair	26	7	6	13	27	39	27
Jableh	26	6	8	12	22	32	26
Al Majd (R)	26	4	10	12	22	37	22
Herafyeen (R)	26	3	2	21	16	58	11

CONCACAF

BARBADOS

2018-19 Championship Final

1st leg - May16; 2nd leg - May19; 3rd leg - May 26

BDF v Weymouth Wales 2-2, 2-0, 1-2 (aet)

4pts each; BDF are champions on goal difference

DOMINICA

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sagicor SE (C)	18	13	2	3	55	18	41
Dublanc	18	12	3	3	44	16	39
Bombers	18	12	2	4	49	20	38
Harlem Utd	18	9	5	4	44	28	32
Pointe Michel	18	9	1	8	36	41	28
Bath Estate[1]	17	8	3	6	33	21	27
Soca Strikers	18	6	2	10	21	36	20
Exodus	18	4	3	11	18	43	15
Middleham	18	3	2	13	21	45	11
Wacky R's[1] (R)	17	1	1	15	14	67	4

[1]Remaining fixture cancelled

PUERTO RICO

2018-19 Championship Final

May 11: Metropolitan 0 Bayamon 0 (aet, Metropolitan 4-1 on pens).

ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pastures (C)	22	16	5	1	66	24	53
NL Predators	22	14	6	2	43	17	48
Sion Hill	22	9	8	5	41	32	35
Hope Intl	22	10	3	9	45	41	33
System 3	22	10	3	9	48	46	33
SV United	22	9	5	8	34	34	32
Jebelle	22	8	6	8	42	31	30
Avenues Utd	22	8	4	10	47	42	28
Camdonia C'sea	22	6	3	13	27	44	21
Bequia Utd	22	5	5	12	34	52	20
Largo Hght (R)	22	4	7	11	35	59	19
Pride & Joy (R)	22	5	2	15	36	76	17

OCEANIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2019 Championship Final

Jun 1: Hekari United 0 Toti City 0 (aet, Toti City 5-4 on pens).

TAHITI

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Venus (C)	27	17	8	2	78	29	86
Tiare Tahiti	27	18	4	5	76	37	85
Tefana	27	16	5	6	73	41	80
Pirae	27	16	4	7	91	46	79
Central Sport	27	14	7	6	89	48	76
Dragon[2]	27	12	4	11	64	62	65
Manu Ura	27	10	6	11	48	46	63
Jeunes Tahit's	27	5	4	18	40	68	46
Arue	27	2	2	23	28	128	35
Taiarapu	27	2	2	23	43	125	35

[1]4pts for a win, 2pts for a draw, 1pt for a defeat

[2]2pts deducted

KEY TO TABLES

(C) = champions

(R) = relegated

(Q) = qualified for next stage

July 2019 Vol 59 No 12

EDITOR Gavin Hamilton
ASSISTANT EDITOR Nich Hills
DESIGN DIRECTOR Kevin Eason
DESIGN EDITOR Jamie Latchford
DEPUTY DESIGN EDITOR Daniel Franklin
PICTURE EDITOR Duncan Bond

PICTURES
Pictures copyright: Getty Images, Press Association Images

Thanks this issue to
Peter Neish, Dean Chillmaid

EDITORIAL
Pinehurst 2, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7BF
Email: world_soccer@ti-media.com
General enquries: +44 (0) 1252 555213

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP
Matthew Johnston
Tel: +44 (0) 1252 555367
Email: matthew.johnston@ti-media.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER Nigel Davies
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Gareth Beesley
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR Adrian Hughes

International licensing enquiries
+44 (0) 20 314 85490
Email: bianca.hamilton-foster@ti-media.com

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Annual sub is for 12 months (13 issues, prices include postage) UK: £68.15 Europe/Eire (inc. VAT): 98.85 euros (airmail) USA: $144.48 (airmail) Rest of world: £99.25 (airmail)

Periodicals paid at Rahway, NJ Postmaster: send address changes to *World Soccer*, c/o MAIL America, 365 Blair Road, Avenel NJ 07001, USA. USPS004075

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COPA AMERICA 2019

ARGENTINA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Franco **ARMANI**	(32) 16.10.86	River Plate
12	Agustin **MARCHESIN**	(31) 16.03.88	America (Mex)
23	Juan **MUSSO**	(25) 06.05.94	Udinese (Ita)

DEFENDERS

14	Milton **CASCO**	(31) 11.04.88	River Plate
2	Juan **FOYTH**	(21) 12.01.98	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
13	Ramiro **FUNES MORI**	(28) 05.03.91	Villarreal (Spa)
17	Nicolas **OTAMENDI**	(31) 12.02.88	Manchester City (Eng)
6	German **PEZZELLA**	(27) 27.06.91	Fiorentina (Ita)
4	Renzo **SARAVIA**	(25) 16.06.93	Porto (Por)
3	Nicolas **TAGLIAFICO**	(26) 31.08.92	Ajax (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS

8	Marcos **ACUNA**	(27) 28.10.91	Sporting (Por)
16	Rodrigo **DE PAUL**	(25) 24.05.94	Udinese (Ita)
11	Angel **DI MARIA**	(31) 14.02.88	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
20	Giovani **LO CELSO**	(23) 09.04.96	Real Betis (Spa)
5	Leandro **PAREDES**	(24) 29.06.94	Paris Saint-Germain
7	Roberto **PEREYRA**	(28) 07.01.91	Watford (Eng)
15	Guido **PIZARRO**	(29) 26.02.90	Tigres (Mex)
18	Guido **RODRIGUEZ**	(25) 12.04.94	America (Mex)

FORWARDS

9	Sergio **AGUERO**	(31) 02.06.88	Manchester City (Eng)
21	Paulo **DYBALA**	(25) 15.11.93	Juventus (Ita)
22	Lautaro **MARTINEZ**	(21) 22.08.97	Internazionale (Ita)
10	Lionel **MESSI**	(31) 24.06.87	Barcelona (Spa)
19	Matias **SUAREZ**	(31) 09.05.88	River Plate

COACH

Lionel **SCALONI**	(41) 16.05.78	

BOLIVIA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Ruben **CORDANO**	(20) 16.10.98	Blooming
1	Carlos **LAMPE**	(32) 17.03.87	Huachipato (Chl)
23	Javier **ROJAS**	(23) 14.01.96	Nacional Potosi

DEFENDERS

8	Diego **BEJARANO**	(27) 24.08.91	Bolivar
17	Marvin **BEJARANO**	(31) 06.03.88	The Strongest
13	Jose Maria **CARRASCO**	(21) 16.08.97	Blooming
5	Mario **CUELLAR**	(30) 05.05.89	Oriente Petrolero
21	Roberto **FERNANDEZ**	(19) 12.07.99	Blooming
4	Luis **HAQUIN**	(21) 15.11.97	Puebla (Mex)
22	Adrian **JUSINO**	(26) 09.07.92	Bolivar
2	Saul **TORRES**	(29) 22.03.90	Nacional Potosi

MIDFIELDERS

15	Paul **ARANO**	(24) 23.02.95	Blooming
14	Raul **CASTRO**	(29) 19.08.89	The Strongest
3	Alejandro **CHUMACERO**	(28) 22.04.91	Puebla (Mex)
10	Samuel **GALINDO**	(27) 18.04.92	Always Ready
7	Leonel **JUSTINIANO**	(26) 02.07.92	Bolivar
6	Erwin **SAAVEDRA**	(23) 22.02.96	Bolivar
20	Fernando **SAUCEDO**	(29) 15.03.90	Jorge Wilstermann
19	Ramiro **VACA**	(19) 01.07.99	The Strongest
16	Diego **WAYAR**	(25) 15.10.93	The Strongest

FORWARDS

18	Gilbert **ALVAREZ**	(27) 07.04.92	Jorge Wilstermann
9	Marcelo **MARTINS**	(31) 18.06.87	Shijiazhuang EB (Chn)
11	Leonardo **VACA**	(23) 24.11.95	Blooming

COACH

Eduardo **VILLEGAS**	(55) 29.03.64	

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS

1	**ALISSON**	(26) 02.10.92	Liverpool (Eng)
16	**CASSIO**	(32) 06.06.87	Corinthians
23	**EDERSON**	(25) 17.08.93	Manchester City (Eng)

DEFENDERS

12	**ALEX SANDRO**	(28) 26.01.91	Juventus (Ita)
13	Dani **ALVES**	(36) 06.05.83	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
22	**FAGNER**	**(30)** 11.06.89	Corinthians
6	**FILIPE LUIS**	(33) 09.08.85	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
4	**MARQUINHOS**	**(25)** 14.05.94	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
14	Eder **MILITAO**	(21) 18.01.98	Porto (Por)
3	**MIRANDA**	(34) 07.09.84	Internazionale (Ita)
2	Thiago **SILVA**	(34) 22.09.84	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS

15	**ALLAN**	(28) 08.01.91	Napoli (Ita)
8	**ARTHUR**	(22) 12.08.96	Barcelona (Spa)
5	**CASEMIRO**	(27) 23.02.92	Real Madrid (Spa)
11	Philippe **COUTINHO**	(27) 12.06.92	Barcelona (Spa)
17	**FERNANDINHO**	(34) 04.05.85	Manchester City (Eng)
18	**LUCAS PAQUETA**	(21) 27.08.97	Milan (Ita)
10	**WILLIAN**	(30) 09.08.88	Chelsea (Eng)

FORWARDS

19	**EVERTON**	(23) 22.03.96	Gremio
9	Gabriel **JESUS**	(22) 03.04.97	Manchester City (Eng)
7	David **NERES**	(22) 03.03.97	Ajax (Hol)
21	**RICHARLISON**	(22) 10.05.97	Everton (Eng)
20	**ROBERTO FIRMINO**	(27) 02.10.91	Liverpool (Eng)

COACH

TITE	(58) 25.05.61	

CHILE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gabriel **ARIAS**	(31) 13.09.87	Racing (Arg)
12	Brayan **CORTES**	(24) 11.03.95	Colo-Colo
23	Yerko **URRA**	(22) 09.07.96	Huachipato

DEFENDERS

15	Jean **BEAUSEJOUR**	(35) 01.06.84	Universidad de Chile
5	Paulo **DIAZ**	(24) 25.08.94	Al Ahli (Sau)
4	Mauricio **ISLA**	(31) 12.06.88	Fenerbahce (Tur)
18	Gonzalo **JARA**	(33) 29.08.85	Estudiantes LP (Arg)
2	Igor **LICHNOVSKY**	(25) 07.03.94	Cruz Azul (Mex)
3	Guillermo **MARIPAN**	(25) 06.05.94	Alaves (Spa)
17	Gary **MEDEL**	(31) 03.08.87	Besiktas (Tur)
21	Oscar **OPAZO**	(28) 18.10.90	Colo-Colo

MIDFIELDERS

20	Charles **ARANGUIZ**	(30) 17.04.89	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
6	Jose Pedro **FUENZALIDA**	(34) 22.02.85	Universidad Catolica
16	Pablo **HERNANDEZ**	(32) 24.10.86	Independiente (Arg)
14	Esteban **PAVEZ**	(29) 01.05.90	Colo-Colo
13	Erick **PULGAR**	(25) 15.01.94	Bologna (Ita)
10	Diego **VALDES**	(25) 30.01.94	Santos Laguna (Mex)
8	Arturo **VIDAL**	(32) 22.05.87	Barcelona (Spa)

FORWARDS

9	Nicolas **CASTILLO**	(26) 14.02.93	America (Mex)
19	Junior **FERNANDES**	(31) 10.04.88	Alanyaspor (Tur)
22	Angelo **SAGAL**	(26) 18.04.93	Pachuca (Mex)
7	Alexis **SANCHEZ**	(30) 19.12.88	Manchester United (Eng)
11	Eduardo **VARGAS**	(29) 20.11.89	Tigres (Mex)

COACH

Reinaldo **RUEDA** (Col)	(62) 16.04.57	

COLOMBIA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Alvaro **MONTERO**	(24) 29.03.95	Deportes Tolima
1	David **OSPINA**	(30) 31.08.88	Arsenal (Eng)
12	Camilo **VARGAS**	(30) 09.03.89	Deportivo Cali

DEFENDERS

4	Santiago **ARIAS**	(27) 13.01.92	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
17	Cristian **BORJA**	(26) 18.02.93	Sporting (Por)
21	Jhon **LUCUMI**	(20) 26.06.98	Genk (Blg)
3	Stefan **MEDINA**	(27) 14.06.92	Monterrey (Mex)
13	Yerry **MINA**	(24) 23.09.94	Everton (Eng)
23	Davinson **SANCHEZ**	(23) 12.06.96	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
6	William **TESILLO**	(29) 02.02.90	Leon (Mex)
2	Cristian **ZAPATA**	(32) 30.09.86	Milan (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

5	Wilmar **BARRIOS**	(25) 16.10.93	Zenit (Rus)
8	Edwin **CARDONA**	(26) 08.12.92	Pachuca (Mex)
11	Juan **CUADRADO**	(31) 26.05.88	Juventus (Ita)
18	Gustavo **CUELLAR**	(26) 14.10.92	Flamengo (Bra)
14	Luis **DIAZ**	(22) 13.01.97	Junior
16	Jefferson **LERMA**	(24) 25.10.94	Bournemouth (Eng)
10	James **RODRIGUEZ**	(27) 12.07.91	Real Madrid (Spa)
15	Mateus **URIBE**	(28) 21.03.91	America (Mex)

FORWARDS

9	Radamel **FALCAO**	(33) 10.02.86	Monaco (Fra)
20	Roger **MARTINEZ**	(24) 23.06.94	America (Mex)
19	Luis **MURIEL**	(28) 16.04.91	Sevilla (Spa)
7	Duvan **ZAPATA**	(28) 01.04.91	Sampdoria (Ita)

COACH

Carlos **QUEIROZ** (Por)	(66) 01.03.53	

ECUADOR

GOALKEEPERS

1	Maximo **BANGUERA**	(33) 16.12.85	Barcelona
22	Alexander **DOMINGUEZ**	(32) 05.06.87	Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
12	Pedro **ORTIZ**	(29) 19.02.90	Delfin

DEFENDERS

21	Gabriel **ACHILIER**	(34) 24.03.85	Morelia (Mex)
3	Robert **ARBOLEDA**	(27) 22.10.91	Sao Paulo (Bra)
14	Xavier **ARREAGA**	(24) 28.09.94	Seattle Sounders (USA)
19	Beder **CAICEDO**	(27) 13.05.92	Barcelona
2	Arturo **MINA**	(28) 08.10.90	Yeni Malatyaspor (Tur)
17	Jose **QUINTERO**	(28) 20.06.90	LDU Quito
6	Cristian **RAMIREZ**	(24) 12.08.94	Krasnodar (Rus)
4	Pedro **VELASCO**	(25) 26.09.93	Barcelona

MIDFIELDERS

20	Andres **CHICAIZA**	(27) 03.04.92	LDU Quito
8	Carlos **GRUEZO**	(24) 19.04.95	Dallas (USA)
5	Renato **IBARRA**	(28) 20.01.91	America (Mex)
7	Romario **IBARRA**	(24) 24.09.94	Minnesota United (USA)
15	Jefferson **INTRIAGO**	(23) 04.06.96	LDU Quito
23	Jhegson **MENDEZ**	(22) 26.04.97	Orlando City (USA)
18	Jefferson **OREJUELA**	(26) 14.02.93	Fluminense (Bra)
11	Ayrton **PRECIADO**	(24) 17.07.94	Santos Laguna (Mex)
16	Antonio **VALENCIA**	(33) 04.08.85	Manchester United (Eng)

FORWARDS

9	Carlos **GARCES**	(29) 01.03.90	Delfin
10	Angel **MENA**	(31) 21.01.88	Leon (Mex)
13	Enner **VALENCIA**	(29) 04.11.89	Tigres (Mex)

COACH

Hernan Dario **GOMEZ** (Col)	(63) 03.02.56	

JAPAN

GOALKEEPERS

1 Eiji **KAWASHIMA**	(36) 20.03.83	Strasbourg (Fra)
12 Ryosuke **KOJIMA**	(22) 30.01.97	Oita Trinita
23 Keisuke **OSAKO**	(19) 28.07.99	Sanfrecce Hiroshima

DEFENDERS

14 Teruki **HARA**	(20) 30.07.98	Sagan Tosu
4 Ko **ITAKURA**	(22) 27.01.97	Manchester City (Eng)
19 Tomoki **IWATA**	(22) 07.04.97	Oita Trinita
15 Daiki **SUGA**	(20) 10.09.98	Hokkaido Consadole Sapporo
2 Daiki **SUGIOKA**	(20) 08.09.98	Shonan Bellmare
22 Yugo **TATSUTA**	(20) 21.06.98	Shimizu S-Pulse
16 Takehiro **TOMIYASU**	(20) 05.11.98	Sint-Truiden (Blg)
5 Naomichi **UEDA**	(24) 24.10.94	Cercle Brugge (Blg)

MIDFIELDERS

20 Hiroki **ABE**	(20) 28.01.99	Kashima Antlers
8 Tatsuya **ITO**	(21) 26.06.97	Hamburg (Ger)
21 Takefusa **KUBO**	(18) 04.06.01	Real Madrid Castilla (Spa)
17 Taishi **MATSUMOTO**	(20) 22.08.98	Sanfrecce Hiroshima
10 Shoya **NAKAJIMA**	(24) 23.08.94	Al Duhail (Qat)
3 Yuta **NAKAYAMA**	(22) 16.02.97	PEC Zwolle (Hol)
7 Gaku **SHIBASAKI**	(27) 28.05.92	Getafe (Spa)
6 Kota **WATANABE**	(20) 18.10.98	Tokyo Verdy
11 Koji **MIYOSHI**	(22) 26.03.97	Kawasaki Frontale

FORWARDS

9 Daizen **MAEDA**	(21) 20.10.97	Matsumoto Yamaga
18 Shinji **OKAZAKI**	(30) 17.03.89	Leicester City (Eng)
13 Ayase **UEDA**	(20) 28.08.98	Kashima Antlers

COACH

Hajime **MORIYASU**	(50) 23.08.68	

PARAGUAY

GOALKEEPERS

22 Alfredo **AGUILAR**	(30) 18.07.88	Olimpia
12 Gatito **FERNANDEZ**	(31) 29.03.88	Botafogo (Bra)
1 Antony **SILVA**	(35) 27.02.84	Huracan (Arg)

DEFENDERS

13 Junior **ALONSO**	(26) 09.02.93	Lille (Fra)
18 Santiago **ARZAMENDIA**	(21) 05.05.98	Cerro Porteno
4 Fabian **BALBUENA**	(27) 23.08.91	West Ham United (Eng)
3 Juan **ESCOBAR**	(23) 03.07.95	Cerro Porteno
15 Gustavo **GOMEZ**	(26) 06.05.93	Palmeiras (Bra)
2 Ivan **PIRIS**	(30) 10.03.89	Libertad
14 Ivan **TORRES**	(28) 27.02.91	Olimpia
5 Bruno **VALDEZ**	(26) 06.10.92	America (Mex)

MIDFIELDERS

23 Miguel **ALMIRON**	(25) 10.02.94	Newcastle United (Eng)
16 Celso **ORTIZ**	(30) 26.01.89	Monterrey (Mex)
17 Hernan **PEREZ**	(30) 25.02.89	Espanyol (Spa)
20 Matias **ROJAS**	(23) 03.11.95	Cerro Porteno
8 Rodrigo **ROJAS**	(31) 09.04.88	Olimpia
6 Richard **SANCHEZ**	(23) 29.03.96	Olimpia

FORWARDS

7 Oscar **CARDOZO**	(36) 20.05.83	Libertad
19 Cecilio **DOMINGUEZ**	(24) 11.08.94	Independiente (Arg)
10 Derlis **GONZALEZ**	(25) 20.03.94	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
11 Juan **ITURBE**	(26) 04.06.93	Roma (Ita)
21 Oscar **ROMERO**	(26) 04.07.92	Shanghai Shenhua (Chn)
9 Federico **SANTANDER**	(28) 04.06.91	Bologna (Ita)

COACH

Eduardo **BERIZZO** (Arg)	(49) 13.11.69	

PERU

GOALKEEPERS

21 Patricio **ALVAREZ**	(25) 24.01.94	Sporting Cristal
12 Carlos **CACEDA**	(27) 27.09.91	Veracruz (Mex)
1 Pedro **GALLESE**	(29) 23.02.90	Veracruz (Mex)

DEFENDERS

2 Luis **ABRAM**	(23) 27.02.96	Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
17 Luis **ADVINCULA**	(29) 02.03.90	Tiges (Mex)
5 Miguel **ARAUJO**	(24) 24.10.94	Alianza Lima
22 Alexander **CALLENS**	(27) 04.05.92	New York City (USA)
3 Aldo **CORZO**	(30) 20.05.89	Universitario
4 Anderson **SANTAMARIA**	(27) 10.01.92	Atlas (Mex)
6 Miguel **TRAUCO**	(26) 25.08.92	Flamengo (Bra)
15 Carlos **ZAMBRANO**	(29) 10.07.89	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)

MIDFIELDERS

7 Josepmir **BALLON**	(31) 21.03.88	Uni de Concepcion (Chl)
8 Christian **CUEVA**	(27) 23.11.91	Krasnodar (Rus)
20 Edison **FLORES**	(25) 15.05.94	Morelia (Mex)
23 Christofer **GONZALES**	(26) 12.10.92	Sporting Cristal
16 Jesus **PRETELL**	(20) 26.03.99	Sporting Cristal
13 Renato **TAPIA**	(23) 28.07.95	Feyenoord (Hol)
19 Yoshimar **YOTUN**	(29) 07.04.90	Cruz Azul

FORWARDS

18 Andre **CARRILLO**	(28) 14.06.91	Benfica (Por)
10 Jefferson **FARFAN**	(34) 26.10.84	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
9 Paolo **GUERRERO**	(35) 01.01.84	Internacional (Bra)
14 Andy **POLO**	(24) 29.09.94	Portland Timbers (USA)
11 Raul **RUIDIAZ**	(28) 25.07.90	Seattle Sounders (USA)

COACH

Ricardo **GARECA** (Arg)	(61) 10.02.58	

QATAR

GOALKEEPERS

22 Mohammed **AL BAKRI**	(22) 28.03.97	Al Duhail
1 Saad **AL SHEEB**	(29) 19.02.90	Al Sadd
21 Yousef **HASSAN**	(23) 24.05.96	Al Gharafa

DEFENDERS

13 Tameem **AL MUHAZA**	(22) 21.07.96	Al Gharafa
15 Bassam **AL RAWI**	(21) 16.12.97	Al Duhail
3 Abdelkarim **HASSAN**	(25) 28.08.93	Al Sadd
8 Hamid **ISMAIL**	(32) 16.06.86	Al Sadd
23 Assim **MADIBO**	(22) 22.10.96	Al Duhail
4 Al Mahdi Ali **MUKHTAR**	(27) 02.03.92	Al Gharafa
2 **RO-RO**	(28) 06.08.90	Al Sadd
5 Tarek **SALMAN**	(21) 05.12.97	Jupiter Leones (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

20 Ali **AFIF**	(31) 20.01.88	Al Duhail
9 Abdullah **AL AHRAK**	(22) 10.05.97	Al Duhail
14 Salem **AL HAJRI**	(23) 10.04.96	Al Sadd
12 Karim **BOUDIAF**	(28) 16.09.90	Al Duhail
18 Ahmed **FATEHI**	(26) 25.01.93	Al Arabi
6 Abdulaziz **HATEM**	(28) 28.10.90	Al Gharafa
16 Boualem **KHOUKHI**	(28) 09.07.90	Al Sadd
17 Ahmed **MOEIN**	(23) 20.10.95	Al Duhail

FORWARDS

11 Akram **AFIF**	(22) 18.11.96	Al Sadd
7 Ahmed **ALAAELDIN**	(26) 31.01.93	Al Gharafa
10 Hassan **AL HAYDOS**	(28) 11.12.90	Al Sadd
19 Almoez **ALI**	(22) 19.08.96	Al Duhail

COACH

Felix **SANCHEZ** (Spa)	(43) 13.12.75	

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS

12 Martin **CAMPANA**	(30) 29.05.89	Independiente (Arg)
1 Fernando **MUSLERA**	(32) 16.06.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
23 Martin **SILVA**	(36) 25.03.83	Libertad (Par)

DEFENDERS

22 Martin **CACERES**	(32) 07.04.87	Lazio (Ita)
19 Sebastian **COATES**	(28) 07.10.90	Sporting (Por)
2 Jose **GIMENEZ**	(24) 20.01.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
3 Diego **GODIN**	(33) 16.02.86	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
4 Giovanni **GONZALEZ**	(24) 20.09.94	Penarol
17 Diego **LAXALT**	(26) 07.02.93	Milan (Spa)
13 Marcelo **SARACCHI**	(21) 23.04.98	RB Leipzig (Ger)

MIDFIELDERS

6 Rodrigo **BENTANCUR**	(21) 25.06.97	Juventus (Ita)
10 Giorgian **DE ARRASCAETA**	(25) 01.06.94	Flamengo (Bra)
7 Nicolas **LODEIRO**	(30) 21.03.89	Seattle Sounders (USA)
8 Nahitan **NANDEZ**	(23) 28.12.95	Boca Juniors (Arg)
16 Gaston **PEREIRO**	(24) 11.06.95	PSV (Hol)
14 Lucas **TORREIRA**	(23) 11.02.96	Arsenal (Eng)
15 Federico **VALVERDE**	(20) 22.07.98	Real Madrid (Spa)
5 Matias **VECINO**	(27) 24.08.91	Internazionale (Ita)

FORWARDS

18 Maxi **GOMEZ**	(22) 14.08.96	Celta Vigo (Spa)
21 Edinson **CAVANI**	(32) 14.02.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
20 Jonathan **RODRIGUEZ**	(25) 06.07.93	Cruz Azul (Mex)
11 Cristhian **STUANI**	(32) 12.10.86	Girona (Spa)
9 Luis **SUAREZ**	(32) 24.01.87	Barcelona (Spa)

COACH

Oscar **TABAREZ**	(72) 03.03.47	

VENEZUELA

GOALKEEPERS

1 Wuilker **FARINEZ**	(21) 15.02.98	Millonarios (Col)
12 Joel **GRATEROL**	(22) 13.02.97	Zamora
22 Rafael **ROMO**	(29) 25.02.90	APOEL (Cyp)

DEFENDERS

4 Jhon **CHANCELLOR**	(27) 02.01.92	Al Ahli (Qat)
21 Rolf **FELTSCHER**	(28) 06.10.90	LA Galaxy (USA)
20 Ronald **HERNANDEZ**	(21) 21.09.97	Stabaek (Nor)
14 Luis **MAGO**	(24) 15.09.94	Palestino (Chl)
3 Yordan **OSORIO**	(25) 10.05.94	Porto (Por)
16 Roberto **ROSALES**	(30) 20.11.88	Malaga (Spa)
2 Mikel **VILLANUEVA**	(26) 14.04.93	Malaga (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

19 Arquomedes **FIGUERA**	(29) 06.10.89	Deportivo La Guaira
6 Yangel **HERRERA**	(21) 07.01.98	Manchester City (Eng)
11 **JUANPI**	(25) 24.01.94	Malaga (Spa)
7 Darwin **MACHIS**	(26) 07.02.93	Udinese (Ita)
5 Junior **MORENO**	(25) 20.07.93	DC United (USA)
15 Jhon **MURILLO**	(23) 21.11.95	Tondela (Por)
8 Tomas **RINCON**	(31) 13.01.88	Torino (Ita)
10 Jefferson **SAVARINO**	(22) 11.11.96	Real Salt Lake (USA)
13 Luis **MANUEL** Seijas	(32) 23.06.86	Santa Fe (Col)
18 Yeferson **SOTELDO**	(21) 30.06.97	Santos (Bra)

FORWARDS

9 Fernando **ARISTEGUIETA**	(27) 09.04.92	Amarica de Cali (Col)
17 Josef **MARTINEZ**	(26) 19.05.93	Atlanta United (USA)
23 Salomon **RONDON**	(29) 16.09.89	West Bromwich Alb (Eng)

COACH

Rafael **DUDAMEL**	(46) 07.01.73	

(ages as of 14.06.19)

Tussle...Spartak's Ze Luis holds off Abdul Aziz Tetteh of Dynamo last season

DYNAMO MOSCOW v SPARTAK MOSCOW

The Russian capital's oldest and most politically charged derby

With four Moscow clubs in the top flight, there is no shortage of derbies in the Russian Premier League. And although Spartak v CSKA – with 10 and six titles respectively – is the biggest game in the capital these days, the game that remains the most fascinating is the fixture between Spartak and Dynamo.

Formed in 1923, Dynamo were synonymous during the Soviet era with the police – and, therefore, the country's secret police, the KGB – while Spartak were founded a year earlier by trade union workers and were considered to be "the people's team".

The pair would battle it out for the Moscow championship, and later the Soviet Top League, with Spartak fans always convinced that the authorities were complicit in favouring Dynamo.

Those sentiments peaked in 1942 when Spartak's founder, Nikolai Starostin, and his three brothers were accused of involvement in a plot to kill the leader of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin.

After two years of interrogations, the charges were dropped but the Starostin brothers were still sentenced to 10 years in Siberian labour camps. On his eventual release – and believing that the head of the secret police and honorary president of Dynamo, Lavrentiy Beria, was behind his detention – Starostin would always demand a Spartak victory over Dynamo above all else.

Although they were Soviet champions 11 times, Dynamo have never won the Russian league title and even suffered the ignominy of relegation from the top flight in 2016 – a fall from grace that has seen a once bitter rivalry diminish somewhat in recent years. WS

Guard of honour... before Dynamo v Spartak in 2007

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS

1936 Jul 11
Dynamo clinch the first-ever Soviet championship by beating Spartak 1-0 at home in front of 70,000 spectators.

1949 Oct 1
Dynamo beat Spartak 5-4, four games from the end of the season, on their way to winning the Soviet Top League.

1991 13.9.91
Spartak's 7-1 thrashing of Dynamo is the biggest-ever winning margin.

2012 Nov 25
Now manager of Arsenal, Unai Emery is sacked as boss of Spartak after a 5-1 loss at home to Dynamo.

2019 Mar 10
Spartak beat Dynamo 1-0 in the 204th meeting between the pair and lead 73-61, with 70 draws

ON BOTH SIDES

KONSTANTIN BESKOV
● 1941-54; (coach) 1967-72, 1994-95
● 1977-88

SERGEI SALNIKOV
● 1942-43, 1946-49, 1955-60; (coach) 1967
● 1950-54

OLEG ROMANTSEV
● 1976-83; (coach) 1989-95, 1997-2003
● (coach) 2004-05

STANISLAV CHERCHESOV
● 1984-87, 1988-93, 1995-96, 2002; (coach) 2007-08
● (coach) 2014-15

ALEKSANDR SAMEDOV
● 2001-05, 2017-18
● 2010-12

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artwork captures them in a
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Hitesh Ratna, Editor, FourFourTwo

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truly unique and authentic content
that is designed to emotionally connect
real fans to the biggest moments
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